

H. S. Ke

An ACCOUNT of the
E X P E D I T I O N
OF THE
British FLEET to SICILY,
In the Years 1718, 1719 and 1720.
Under the Command of
Sir **G E O R G E B Y N G**, Bart.
(*Afterwards Viscount TORRINGTON*)

Admiral and Commander in Chief of His
MAJESTY's Fleet; and His Majesty's Com-
missary and Plenipotentiary to the several
Princes and States of Italy.

Collected from the ADMIRAL's Manuscripts, and
other Original Papers.

— — — — — *Jubet arma parari*
Tutari Italiam, detrudere finibus hostem. Virg.

L O N D O N: 172 La
Printed for J. and R. TONSON in the Strand.

M D C C XXXIX.

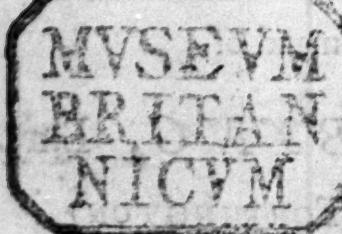
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М О Д М О Д



To the Right Honourable the
Lord Viscount Torrington.

MY LORD,

A V I N G adven-
tured to publish
to the World
this small Proof
of my Regard to the Me-
mory of Your Noble FA-
THER, Your Lordship will
allow me to claim Your

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DEDICATION.

Protection of a Work,
which I should never have
attempted without Your
Assistance. Your Lordship
furnished me with the Ma-
terials; You will be my
Surety to the Publick for
the Truth of the Facts;
and my greatest Encou-
ragement to go about it
proceeded from the judi-
cious Remarks you com-
municated to me, made by
Yourself on the Scene of
Action, at an early Age,
which usually tempts more
to

DEDICATION.

to Pleasures, than to Thought and Observation.

You will perceive, MY LORD, that I do not enter into the Policy of the Councils which produced the War I describe, my only Design being to shew what Orders the Admiral received, and how well he executed them.

But I hope the Reader will find one Satisfaction, that it wipes off an Asper-sion thrown out in those Days, and believed by many ever

D E D I C A T I O N.

ever since, that the *English* Fleet surprized that of *Spain* without any Warning, and even contrary to Declarations in which *Spain* confided with Security.

I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

most obedient humble Servant,

T. C.



THE P R E F A C E.

 *HE Writer of the following Sheets little thought of ever troubling the Publick under the Character of an Author. But the noble Lord, whose Father is the Subject of these Memoirs, having favoured him with a Sight of some of the Admiral's Manuscripts, and other Original Papers, concerning his Expedition to Sicily, the Perusal of them gave him that inward Pleasure, which naturally arises in Minds touched with what regards the Honour of their Country. And the same Principle led him to regret, that an Expedition so well conducted, and so much to the Reputation of the British Flag, should be suffered either to sink by Length of Time into Oblivion, or be left to an imperfect and obscure Relation of it*

P R E F A C E.

it among the common and general Transactions of the Times, which seemed of Importance sufficient to deserve an accurate and distinct Account of it. These Sentiments, joined with a great Respect for the Memory of the Admiral, to whom he owed the highest Obligations, put him upon attempting a Task that was worthy of a better Hand. But though these were his Motives to the Work, Fidelity to Truth has been his sole Guide in the Conduct of it. It is the only Qualification of an Historian he pretends to; it is the only Thing he dares think commendable in the Performance; and the Reader may be assured, that no Considerations whatsoever could induce or tempt him to magnify any Man's Character, at the Expence of his own.

The Reader is desired to observe, that the New Style is used throughout the Book, as well in Domestick as Foreign Transactions, for the sake of Uniformity in the Dates, and to render the Narrative less perplexed.

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An ACCOUNT of the
EXPEDITION
OF THE
British FLEET to SICILY,

In the Years 1718, 1719 and 1720.

TH E Treaties of Utrecht and Baden did not procure that firm and durable Peace, which Europe wanted after a War of such universal Ruin. The original Cause of the Quarrel remained still undetermined, and, in the opinion of all Men, would be one day a Source of farther Troubles. The Emperor could not be brought to renounce his Pretensions to the Crown of Spain; and King Philip refused to confirm

Expedition to SICILY.

confirm to that Prince the Provinces dismembered from him in *Italy* and *Flanders*, on any other Condition. All that the interposing Powers, who laboured towards their Reconciliation, could effect, was, that the Emperor consented to evacuate the Principality of *Catalonia*, with the Isles of *Majorca* and *Iviça*; and the King of *Spain* agreed to a Cessation of Arms in *Italy*, and the adjacent Isles, situated in the *Mediterranean Sea*, until a general Peace should be made.

In this condition of Affairs, the Emperor sent an Army into *Hungary* against the *Turks*, who had invaded the Dominions of the *Venetians*, his Allies. The Pope, to whom Wars of that kind are always agreeable, obtained repeated Assurances from the King of *Spain*, both by Letters, and by Declarations from his Ambassador at *Rome*, "that he would not undertake any thing against
" the

Expedition to SICILY.

3

“ the Interests of the Emperor, whilst
“ his Arms were employed in so reli-
“ gious a Cause ; and would even
“ aid the *Venetians* with a Squadron
“ of Men of War and Gallies.” For
which Purpose he obtained from the
Court of *Rome* an Indult for raising
extraordinary Subsidies on the Eccle-
siastical Revenues in *Spain* and the
Indies. not Accordingly in the Year
1716, he sent out a small Squadron
of six Men of War and five Gallies,
which arrived too late in the *Levant*,
to be of any Service to the *Venetians*,
who had before sustained a naval
Combat with the *Turks*, and had al-
most finished the operations of the
Campaign. But, the next year, the
the *Spaniards* made such extraordinary
Preparations by Sea and Land, as
gave a Jealousy, that, instead of pas-
sing up the *Levant* to the Assistance
of the *Venetians*, they had a design to
make some Conquest themselves in

Expedition to SICILY.

the *Mediterranean*. The Event justified the Suspicion. A strong Squadron of Men of War, with about 9000 Land Forces, commanded by the *Marquis de Lede*, sailed from *Barcelona* the 20th of *July 1717*, and landing at *Cagliari* in *Sardinia*, made a speedy and entire Conquest of that Island, which belonged to the Emperor, and was in no good condition of Defence. The World was surprised, and expected the King of *Spain's* Reasons for so extraordinary a Procedure. The principal Motives alledged by that Court were, " their " Resentment of the unfair Dealings " of the * Archduke, in the Execu- " tion of the Treaty for evacuating " *Catalonia* and *Majorca*, by deliver- " ing up the Towns to the Inhabi- " tants; which had put the King of " *Spain* to great trouble and expence " in

* They had not then acknowledged him to be Emperor.

Expedition to SICILY.

5

“ in reducing those People to Obedience.” To which was added, “ the Arrest of the Inquisitor General of *Spain* at *Milan*, as he was passing through that Country with a Passport from the Pope.” But whatever unfairness (if any) had been practis’d by the Emperor on Occasion of the Evacuation, it was long antecedent to the Promise the King of *Spain* had made, not to molest the Emperor, whilst he was at War with the *Turks*. And the detention of a single Subject was too weak a Ground for a Proceeding of such Violence. But, that Prince promising to proceed no farther against the Emperor, and “ to suspend all Operations, in order to give time and opportunity to the Powers of Europe to think of Measures for reconciling their Differences, and securing the Tranquillity and Balance of Power in *Italy*,” it gave occasion to *England* and *France*,

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who

who were Guaranties of the Neutrali-
ty of *Italy*, (and the former engaged
besides in a defensive Alliance with
the Emperor) " to concert together
such Terms of Accommodation
between the Emperor and the
King of *Spain*, as should be equal-
ly advantageous and honourable to
both, supply the Imperfections of
the Treaties of *Utrecht* and *Baden*,
and establish on a more solid Ba-
sis the Tranquillity of *Europe*; with
a resolution of compelling by Force
that Party which should refuse to
accede to those Stipulations, and
thereby obstruct the general Good." This gave Birth to that famous Treaty, called, the Quadruple Alliance, by which the Emperor was to renounce all Pretensions to the Crown of *Spain* (a point King *Philip* had exceedingly at heart) and to part with *Sardinia* to the Duke of *Savoy*, in lieu of which, the Duke was to sur-
render

Expedition to SICILY.

7

render *Sicily* to the Emperor. The Succession to the Duchies of *Tuscany*, *Parma* and *Placentia*, which the Queen of *Spain* (of the House of *Farnese*) claimed by Inheritance, in default of Male Issue, was to be settled on her eldest Son. But *Spain* being dissatisfied with this Partition, and continuing to make very formidable Preparations by Sea and Land, without any regard to the Entreaties and Admonitions of *England* and *France*, the King ordered a strong Squadron of Ships of War to be fitted out for the Sea. The *Marquis de Monteleon*, Ambassador of *Spain* at the Court of *England*, being alarmed at these Preparations, and representing in a Memorial, dated the 18th of *March 1718*, "that so powerful an Armament, in time of Peace, could not but cause Umbrage to the King his Master, and alter the good Intelligence that reigned be-

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" tween

"tween the two Crowns." The King answered, "That it was not his Intention to conceal the Subject of that Armament, and that he designed soon to send Admiral Byng with a powerful Squadron into the *Mediterranean Sea*; in order to maintain the Neutrality of *Italy* against those who should seek to disturb it." The Ships being got to their Rendezvous at *Spithead*, Sir George Byng repaired down to *Portsmouth* to take them under his Command. The King's Instructions to that Admiral were, * "upon his Arriyal in the *Mediterranean*, to acquaint the Court of *Spain*, and likewise the Viceroy of *Naples*, and the Governor of *Milan*, that he was sent into that Sea, in order to promote all Measures that might best contribute to the composing the Differences ar-

* See the Appendix.

" sen

“ seen between the two Crowns; and
“ for preventing any farther Violation of the Neutrality of Italy;
“ which he was to see preserved.
“ That he was to make Instances
“ with both Parties to forbear all
“ Acts of Hostility, in order to the
“ setting on foot and concluding the
“ proper Negotiations of Peace. But
“ in case the Spaniards should still in-
“ sist to attack the Emperor’s Ter-
“ ritory in Italy, or to land in any
“ part of Italy for that purpose, or
“ should endeavour to make them-
“ selves Masters of the Island of Si-
“ cily, which must be with a De-
“ sign to invade the Kingdom of
“ Naples, he was then with all his
“ Power to hinder and obstruct the
“ same. But if they were already
“ landed, he was to endeavour amit-
“ cably to dissuade them from per-
“ severing in such an Attempt, and
“ to offer them his Assistance to

“ with-

" withdraw their Troops, and put
" an end to all farther Acts of Ho-
" stility. But if his friendly Endea-
" vours should prove ineffectual, he
" was then to defend the Territo-
" ries attacked, by keeping company
" with, or intercepting their Ships or
" Convoys, or (if necessary) by op-
" posing them openly."

The Admiral sailed the 15th of June, 1718, from Spithead, with twenty Ships of the Line of Battle, two Fireships, two Bomb-Vessels, a Hospital-Ship, and a Store-Ship. Being got into the Ocean, he sent the *Rupert* to Lisbon for Intelligence, and arriving the 30th off Cape St. Vincent, he dispatched the *Superbe* to Cadiz, with a Gentleman who carried a Letter from him to * Colonel Stanhope, the King's Envoy at Madrid, wherein he desired that Minister to acquaint the King of Spain with his

* Now Lord Harrington.

Arrival in those Parts, in his way to the *Mediterranean*, and to lay before him the Instructions he was to act under with his Squadron, of which he gave a very ample Detail in his Letter. The Envoy shewed the Letter to Cardinal *Alberoni*, who upon reading it, told him with some Warmth, "That his Master would run all Hazards, and even suffer himself to be driven out of *Spain*, rather than recall his Troops, or consent to any Suspension of Arms:" adding "That the *Spaniards* were not to be frightned, and he was so well convinced of their Fleet's doing their Duty, that, if the Admiral should think fit to attack them, he should be in no pain for the Success." Mr. *Stanhope* having in his Hand a List of the *British* Squadron, prayed his Eminence to peruse it, and to compare its Strength with that of their own

Expedition to SICILY.

own Squadron, which the Cardinal took, and threw on the Ground with much Passion. Mr. Stanhope, with great Temper, desired him " to consider the sincere Attention the King his Master had always had " to the Honour and Interest of his Catholick Majesty, which it was " impossible for him to give greater Proofs of, than he had done " by his unwearied Endeavours thro' " the whole course of the present Negotiation, to procure the most advantageous Conditions possible " for Spain, in which he had succeeded even beyond what any unprejudiced Person could have hoped for; and that, tho' by the Treaty of Utrecht for the Neutrality of Italy, which was entered into at the Request of the King of Spain himself, as also by that of Westminster the 25th of May 1716, his Majesty found himself obliged " to

“ to defend the Emperor’s Domi-
“ nions when attacked, he had hi-
“ therto only acted as a Mediator,
“ tho’ ever since the Enterprise against
“ *Sardinia*, by his Treaties he be-
“ came a Party in the War, and for
“ this Year last past had been strong-
“ ly called upon by the Emperor to
“ comply with his Engagements;
“ and that even now, when it was
“ impossible for him to delay any
“ longer the sending his Fleet into
“ the *Mediterranean*, it plainly ap-
“ peared by the Admiral’s Instruc-
“ tions, which he communicated to
“ his Eminence, and by the Orders
“ he had himself received, that his
“ Majesty had nothing more at heart,
“ than that his Fleet might be em-
“ ployed in promoting the Interests
“ of the King of *Spain*; and hoped,
“ his Catholick Majesty would not,
“ by refusing to recall his Troops,
“ or consent to a Cessation of Arms,
“ put

“ put it out of his Power to give all
“ the Proofs of the sincere Friend-
“ ship he always desired to cultivate
“ with his Catholick Majesty.” All
that the Cardinal could be brought
to promise, was, to lay the Admiral’s
Letter before the King, and to let
the Envoy know his Resolution upon
it in two Days; but it was nine be-
fore he could obtain and send it
away, the Cardinal probably hoping
that the Admiral would delay, in ex-
pectation of it, in some of the Ports
of *Spain*, and thereby give time for
their Fleet and Forces to secure a
good Footing in *Sicily*. The An-
swer was wrote under the Admiral’s
Letter in these Words, “ His Catho-
“ lick Majesty has done me the Ho-
“ nour to tell me, That the Cheva-
“ lier *Byng* may execute the Orders
“ which he has from the King his
“ Master. *Escurial, 15 July, 1718.*
“ *The Cardinal Alberoni.*”

Mr.

Mr. Stanhope seeing things tending to a Rupture, gave private and early Notice of his Apprehensions to the *English* Consuls and Merchants settled in the *Spanish* Sea-port Towns, advising them to guard and secure their Effects against any danger of a Breach between the two Crowns.

The Admiral pursuing his Voyage with unfavourable Winds, it was the 8th of July before he made *Cape Spartel*, where the *Superbe* and *Rupert* rejoined him, and brought him Advice of the mighty Preparations the *Spaniards* had made at *Barcelona*, and of their Fleet sailing from thence the 18th of June to the Eastward. In passing by *Gibraltar*, Vice-Admiral *Cornwall* came out and joined him with the *Argyle* and *Charles Galley*. The Squadron wanting Water, and the Wind continuing contrary, they anchored off *Cape Malaga*, where having compleated their Watering in four

four Days, they proceeded to *Minorca*, where the Admiral was to land four Regiments of Foot, which he carried out from *England*, in order to relieve the Soldiers there in Garrison, who were to embark and serve in the Squadron. On the 23d of *July* he anchored with the Squadron off *Port Mahon*. Here he received Advice, that the *Spanish* Fleet had been seen the 30th of *June* within forty Leagues of *Naples*, Steering S. E. upon which he dispatched away Expresses to the Governor of *Milan*, and Viceroy of *Naples*, to inform them of his Arrival in the *Mediterranean*; and having shifted the Garrisons of *Minorca*, he sailed from thence the 25th of *July*, and arrived the 1st of *August* in the Bay of *Naples*.

It is impossible to express the Joy of those People, at the long-wish'd-for Sight of a Fleet, which alone could

could assure their Safety. They had been under the greatest Terrors, expecting that the prodigious Arma-
ment of *Spain* would have fallen up-
on that Kingdom; and though their Fears were relieved for the present,
by the Descent of the *Spaniards* into
Sicily, yet the Rapidity with which they had over-run the greatest part of that Island, and a reasonable Sus-
picion, that the Duke of *Savoy* would not much expose his Troops to de-
fend the Remainder of a Country, which, by the Terms of the Qua-
druple Alliance, was to be taken from him, and given to a Potentate whose Power in *Italy* he dreaded, made them look for the Enemy soon in *Naples*, where, the strong Party that had appeared amongst the *Sici- lian* Nobility for *Spain*, made them apprehend, that no less a Faction would rise in their Favour, upon their invading that Kingdom, where

the *Germans* had but Twelve (some say Eight) thousand Men, and the whole Country was ill provided for Defence. The common People indeed were generally in the Interest of the House of *Austria*, which was greatly owing to the prudent Government of the Marshal Count *Daun* their Viceroy, a Man endowed with all the Qualities fit for that high Employment, and the same Person who defended *Turin* so well, when it was besieged by the Duke of *Orleans* in 1706, 'till it was relieved by the Duke of *Savoy* and Prince *Eugene*. He was of a courteous and affable Disposition, but exact and steddy in the Administration of Justice, by which means he had suppress'd the *Banditti* who used to infest the Country; and had put a stop to the Murthers that were so frequent in the City, not suffering the Churches to exercise their infamous Claim

Claim of Sanctuary for such flagitious Crimes. He did not indeed affect that Shew of Grandeur which the *Italians* are fond of; but as his frugal manner of living freed him from the Necessity of oppressing them, so there was never any Complaint of that kind against him. He was very zealous for the Interests of his Master, which he promoted by just and wise Measures; and a certain Conformity of Manners, wherein he and the Admiral resembled each other, begat such a quick Confidence and Friendship between them, as helped to carry on the Service of the common Cause with unusual Harmony and Dispatch.

The Fleet sailing with a gentle Gale into the Bay of *Naples*, consisting of Twenty-one Sail of the Line of Battle, most of them great Ships, and three of them bearing Flags, afforded such a Spectacle as

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had never been seen in those Parts before. The whole City was in a Tumult of Joy and Exultation. The Shore was crowded with Multitudes of Coaches and People; and such an infinite number of Boats came off, some with Provisions and Refreshments, others out of Curiosity and Admiration, that the Sea between the Fleet at Anchor and the Shore, was litterally covered.

The Viceroy being incommoded with the Gout, sent Colonel Count *Hamilton* to make his Compliments to the Admiral, and to let him know the feeble Condition he was in, but that nevertheless he intended to come off, and make him a Visit. The Admiral returned the Civility by his First Captain, who waiting on the Viceroy, told him, the Admiral was sensible of the Honour he intended him, but desired he would not give himself the trouble, especially

cially as he was ill, and that he would immediately wait on his Excellency. The Admiral going ashore, attended by the Flag-Officers and Captains in their Boats, was saluted, at his Landing, by all the Cannon round the City and Castles, and was carried to the Duke *De Matalone*'s Palace, pleasantly situated by the Seaside, which had been prepared for his Reception during his Stay at *Naples*. From thence he was conducted to Court through an infinite Throng of People, with the greatest Acclamations of Joy, and all the Honours and Ceremonies paid to a Viceroy; where entering into Conference with Count *Daun*, he learnt that the Spanish Army, consisting of about 30000 Men, commanded by the Marquis *De Lede*, had landed the 2d of *July* in *Sicily*, and had soon made themselves Masters of the City and Castles of *Palermo*, and of great

part of the Island; that they had taken the Town of *Messina*, and were then carrying on the Siege of the Citadel; that the Viceroy did not know, how far the *Piedmontese* Garrison was to be depended on, but that they must soon be obliged to surrender, if not relieved. That the last Letters he had received from *Vienna* gave hopes, that the King of *Sicily* might be entered by this time into a particular Alliance with the Emperor, having desired the Assistance of his Troops, and agreed to receive them into the Citadel. The next Morning the Viceroy visited the Admiral, and renewing their Conference on the Measures to be taken in that Conjecture of Affairs, it was agreed, that the Viceroy should send General *Wetzel* with 2000 German Foot in Tartans to *Messina*, to relieve the Citadel, and Fort St. *Salvador*; and, as the Admiral was directed

rected by his Orders to obstruct any Attempts of the *Spaniards* on *Sicily*, he consented to take those Troops under his Protection; and accordingly, the Transports being got ready, he sailed with them the 6th of *August* from *Naples*, and arrived the 9th in view of the *Fare of Messina*.

Here the Admiral paused. He saw with trouble a new War rekindled in *Europe* by the Ambition of *Spain*. He weighed with Thoughtfulness the Consequences of his Instructions, which made a Rupture with that Nation unavoidable, if they persisted in their Enterprize on *Sicily*; and being ardently desirous of trying every Method of Negotiation, before he proceeded to the Extremity of his Orders, he dispatched away Captain *Saunders*, his First Captain, to *Messina*, with a Letter to the Marquis *De Lede*, acquainting him, "that
" the King his Master being en-

“ gaged by several Treaties to pre-
“ serve the Tranquillity of *Italy*, had
“ honoured him with the Command
“ of a Squadron of Ships, which he
“ had sent into those Seas, and that
“ he came fully empowered and in-
“ structed to promote such Measures
“ as might best accommodate all
“ Differences between the Powers
“ concerned. That his Majesty was
“ employing his utmost Endeavours
“ to bring about a general Pacifica-
“ tion, and was not without hopes
“ of Success; he therefore proposed
“ to him to come to a Cessation of
“ Arms in *Sicily* for two Months,
“ in order to give time to the seve-
“ ral Courts to conclude on such
“ Resolutions as might restore a last-
“ ing Peace.” But added, “ that if
“ he was not so happy to succeed in
“ this Offer of his Service, nor to
“ be instrumental in bringing about
“ so desirable a Work, he should
“ then

“ then hope to merit his Excellency’s Esteem in the Execution of “ the other part of his Orders, which “ were, to use all his Force to prevent farther Attempts to disturb “ the Dominions his Master stood “ engaged to defend.” The next Morning the Captain returned with the General’s Answer, “ that it would “ be an inexpressible Joy for his Person to contribute to so laudable an “ End as Peace, but as he had no “ Powers to treat, he could not of “ Consequence agree to any Suspension of Arms, even at the Expence “ of what the Courage of his Master’s “ Arms might be put to, but should “ follow his Orders, which directed “ him to seize on *Sicily* for his Master the King of *Spain*. That he “ had a true Sense of his accomplished Expressions, but his Master’s “ Forces would always be universal-
ly

" ly esteemed in sacrificing them-
" selves for the Preservation of their
" Credit, in which Cases the Suc-
" cess did not always answer the I-
" deas that were formed."

The Admiral had received Intelligence, that the *Spanish* Fleet weighed from *Paradise* (which is a Road at the Entrance of the Harbour of *Messina*) the day before his Arrival off the *Fare*, which made him Conclude, that they were retired to *Malta*; and therefore, upon receiving the *Marquis's* Answer, he immediately weighed, with an Intention to come with his Squadron before *Messina*, in order to encourage and support the Garrison in the Citadel; but as he stood in about the Point of the *Fare* towards *Messina*, he saw two of the *Spanish* Scouts in the *Fare*, and being informed at the same time by a *Felucca*, which came off from the *Calabrian* Shore, that they saw from the Hills the *Spani-*

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niſh Fleet lying by, the Admiral altered his Design, and sending away general *Wetzel* with the *German* Troops to *Reggio*, under the Convoy of two Men of War, he stood through the *Fare* with his Squadron, with all the Sail he could, after their Scouts, imagining they would lead him to their Fleet, which accordingly they did; for before Noon he had a fair Sight of their whole Fleet lying by, and drawn into a Line of Battle, consisting of 27 Sail of Men of War, small and great, besides two Fire-ships, four Bomb-Vessels, seven Gallies, and several Ships laden with Stores and Provisions, commanded by the Admiral *Don Antonio de Castaneta*, and under him four Rear-Admirals, *Chacon*, *Mari*, *Guevara* and *Cammock*. On the Sight of the English Squadron, they stood away large, but in order of Battle. The Admiral followed them all the rest of that day,

day, and the succeeding Night, with small Gales NEtly and sometimes Calm, with fair Weather. The next Morning early (the 11th) the *English* being got pretty near up with them, the *Marquis de Mari*, Rear-Admiral; with six *Spanish* Men of War, and all the Gallies, Fireships, Bomb-Vessels and Storeships, separated from their main Fleet, and stood in for the *Sicilian* Shore, upon which the Admiral detached Captain *Walton* of the *Canterbury* with five more Ships after them, and the *Argyle* and *Canterbury* getting within Gun Shot of the head-most Ship about six in the Morning, the *Argyle* fired a Shot to bring her to, which she not minding, the *Argyle* fired another, and the *Canterbury* being something nearer, fired another, upon which the *Spanish* Ship fired her stern Chace at the *Canterbury*, and then the Engagement began. The Admiral pursuing

Expedition to SICILY.

29

ing the main Body of the Spanish Fleet, the *Orford*, Captain *Falkingham*, and the *Grafton*, Captain *Haddock*, came up first with them, about ten of the Clock, at whom the Spaniards fired their Stern Chace Guns. The Admiral sent Orders to those two Ships not to fire, unless the Spaniards repeated their firing, which they doing, the *Orford* attacked the *Santa Rosa* of 64 Guns, and took her. The *St. Carlos* of 60 Guns struck next, without much Opposition, to the *Kent*, Captain *Matthews*. The *Grafton* attacked warmly the *Prince of Asturias* of 70 Guns, formerly called the *Cumberland*, in which was Rear-Admiral *Chacon*, but the *Bredah* and *Captain* coming up, Captain *Haddock* left that Ship much shattered for them to take, and stretched a head after another Ship of 60 Guns, which had kept firing on his Starboard Bow, during his Engagement with

with the Prince of *Asturias*. About one of the Clock the *Kent*, and soon after the *Superbe*, Captain *Master*, came up with and engaged the *Spaniſh* Admiral of 74 Guns, who with two Ships more fired on them and made a running Fight until about three, and then the *Kent* bearing down upon him, and under his Stern, gave him her Broadside, and fell to *Leeward*; afterwards the *Superbe* putting for it to lay the Admiral aboard, fell on his Weather Quarter, upon which the *Spaniſh* Admiral shifting his Helm, the *Superbe* ranged up under his *Lee* Quarter, on which he struck to her. At the same time the *Barfleur*, in which was the Admiral, being a-stern of the *Spaniſh* Admiral within Shot, and inclining on his Weather Quarter, Rear-Admiral *Guevara* and another 60 Gun Ship, which were to Windward, bore down upon him, and gave him their Broad-sides,

Expedition to SICILY.

31

sides, and then clapt upon a Wind, standing in for the Land: The Admiral immediately tacked and stood after them, until it was almost Night, but it being little Wind, and they galing away out of his Reach, he left pursuing them, and stood in to the Fleet, which he joined two hours after Night. The *Essex* took the *Juno* of 36 Guns, the *Montague* and *Rupert* took the *Volante* of 44 Guns, and Rear-Admiral *Delaval*, in the *Dorsetshire*, took the *Isabella* of 60 Guns. This Action happened off Cape *Passaro*, at about six Leagues distance from the Shore. The English received but little damage. The Ship that suffered most was the *Grafton*, which being a good Sailor, her Captain engaged several Ships of the Enemy, always pursuing the Headmost, and leaving those Ships he had disabled or damaged, to be taken by those that followed him.

Expedition to SICILY.

him. The Admiral lay by some days at Sea, to refit the Rigging of his Ships, and to repair the Damages the Prizes had sustained; and the 18th received a Letter from Captain *Walton* * giving an Account, that he had taken four *Spaniſh* Men of War, one of 60 Guns, commanded by Rear-Admiral *Mari*, one of 54, one of 40, and one of 24 Guns, with a Bomb-Vessel, and a Ship laden with Arms; and burnt four Men of War, one of 54 Guns, two of 40, and one of 30 Guns, with a Fire-ship and a Bomb-Vessel.

The Captain was one, whose natural Talents were fitter for attchieving a gallant Action, than describing one, yet his Letter on this Occasion, carries in it such a Strain of military Eloquence, that it is worth inserting here.

* He was knighted for this Action, and made a Flag-Officer some time after.

S I R,

SIR,

We have taken and destroyed all the Spanish Ships and Vessels, which were upon the Coast, the Number as per Margin. I am, &c.

Canterbury off

Syracusa, 16th August, G. WALTON.

1718.

The Admiral having thus received a full Account of the whole Transaction, dispatched away his eldest Son Mr. Byng to England; who arriving at *Hampton-Court* in fifteen days from *Naples*, brought thither the agreeable Confirmation of what publick Fame had before reported, and upon which the King had already written a * Letter to the Admiral with his own hand. Mr. Byng met with a most gracious Reception from his Majesty, who made him a handsome Present, and sent him back with plenipotentiary Powers to his Father to negociate with

* See Appendix.

the several Princes and States of *Italy*, as there should be Occasion, and with his royal Grant to the Officers and Seamen of all Prizes taken by them from the *Spaniards*.

The Conduct of the *Spaniards* in the Action of *Passaro*, did not answer the Vigor of the Resolutions they had taken before it. Upon Notice of the Approach of the *English* Squadron, they held a Consultation, in which the Question was not, whether they should fight or retreat, but in what Station they should expect them? Whether go out from *Messina* to meet them, or pass through the *Fare* to the Southward, and lying by in order of Battle, receive them there? Which latter Opinion prevailed. But when the Admiral came up near to them, they soon abandoned their Order of Battle, and falling into Confusion and Incertainty, whether to resist or fly, by doing neither, they became an easy

easy Prey, and the *English* might be rather said to have made a Seizure, than to have gotten a Victory. There was indeed some Disproportion in the Strength of the two Fleets, a List of both which is in the *Appendix*: But the Inequality was not such as deterred the *Spaniards* from a resolution of fighting, tho' it was but ill supported afterwards in the Execution. But this Justice is due to the Admiral *Castaneta*, and to Rear-Admiral *Chacon*, that they made as good a Defence with their own Ships as could be expected, and the former was wounded in both Legs.

It was reported, that at a Consultation of the *Spanish* Admirals, Rear-Admiral *Cammock* gave his Opinion, that they should remain at Anchor in the Road of *Paradise*, ranging their Ships in a Line of Battle, with their Broadsides to the Sea; which Measure would certainly have given the

English Admiral infinite Trouble to attack them. For the Coast there is so bold, that their biggest Ships could ride with a Cable ashore; and farther out the Currents are so various and rapid, that it would have been hardly practicable to get up to them, but impossible to anchor or lye by them in Order of Battle: Besides, they lay so near the Shore, and could have received such Assistance of Soldiers from the Army to mann and defend them; and the Annoyance the *Spaniards* might have given from the several Batteries they could have planted along the Shore, would have been such, that the only way of attacking the Ships seemed to be by boarding and grappling with them at once, to prevent being cast off by the Currents, which would have been a very hazardous Undertaking, wherein the *Spaniards* would have had many Advantages, and the *English* Admiral

miral have run the Chance of destroying his Fleet, or buying a Victory, if he succeeded, very dear.

The Councils of *Spain* were at this time under the Management of two *Italians*, the Queen and the *Abbot Alberoni*, whom she had raised to the Dignity of Cardinal and Prime Minister. They had vast Designs in their View, and by secret Intrigues with the King of *Sicily*, and other *Italian* Princes and States, had laid no less a Scheme, than to exterminate the House of *Austria* and the Imperial Power out of *Italy*. And it was thought to be owing to the doubts they had of the Sincerity of the King of *Sicily*, that the Storm fell first upon his Dominions, which was intended elsewhere. The Arma-
ment they fitted out was suitable to the Greatness of the Undertaking; never any Nation sent to Sea an Army so numerous, so well appointed,

D 3 and

and so provided with all Necessaries for a distant Expedition; the least Implement was not forgotten. All which was owing to the indefatigable Care of *Don Joseph Patinho*, a Man of great Abilities, who went in the Expedition, and had the absolute Direction and Management of the whole Enterprize, except the military Command. The World was amazed to see *Spain* exerting a Vigor, she had not shewn for above a Century past. Some of the principal Prisoners, and *Castaneta* himself, assured the Admiral, that they intended the Summer following to have at Sea 50 Sail of the Line of Battle; which the great Preparations in the Ports of *Biscay*, and other Ports of *Spain*, made very probable. Those in *Biscay*, which were one Man of War of 70 Guns, and two of 60, newly built, with an incredible Quantity of Timber, Pitch and Tar, and other

other naval Stores, for building more, were all destroyed by an *English* Squadron, assisted by a Detachment which the Duke of *Berwick* spared from his Army, at the Solicitation of Colonel *Stanhope* the *English* Minister, who contrived the Design, and serving as a Voluntier in the Enterprize, principally contributed to the Execution of it.

It should seem but ill Policy in a Court, intent on such mighty Designs, to provoke and irritate, without Cause, a Nation the most capable in the World of thwarting and defeating them. And yet they seemed to make it a studied Point to vex and distress the *English* by all manner of Ways in their Commerce, insomuch that their Trade with *Spain* was almost ruined and lost. They demanded Arbitrary and heavy Duties from the *English* Factories residing in their Ports, from which the Tre-

ties expressly exempted them; and upon refusal of Payment, their Houses were surrounded by Soldiers, their Warehouses and Chests broken open, and their Goods sold at publick Outcry. The royal Officers used them with such Injustice and Insolence, as if they knew, they made their Court by doing so. Every Post brought Complaints to the *English* Minister at *Madrid*, of new Grievances and Oppressions. The Memorials delivered to that Court for Redress were numberless, without the least Regard had to them. When any Transportation of Troops was intended, they immediately Embargoed all the *English* Merchant Ships in their Ports, compelling their Masters, with great Circumstances of Severity, to enter into their Service, imprisoning them in common Goals, if they refused, and obliging them to unload their Cargoes, tho' perishable, and consigned

signed to other Markets. They proceeded so far in their unjust Treatment, that their Cruizers brought into the Ports of *Spain* whatever *English* Merchant-Ships they met with in the open Sea, tho' bound to *Italy*, or other Parts, and compelled them to unload their Cargoes, and enter into their Service. Such as were not used by them for Transports, had their Seamen taken away to serve in their Men of War. Rear-Admiral *Cammock* press'd no less than Sixty for his own Ship, and one of the Masters endeavouring to keep his Men, had both his Ears cut off. The Battle of *Passaro* was fortunate to those poor People, for when the Issue of it was known, 45 *English* Transports made their Escape from *Messina* to *Reggio*, several of them laden with Military Stores and Provisions; and their Masters applying to the Admiral, he granted

Expedition to SICILY.

granted them Convoy to the Ports in Italy where they desired to go; but some chose to stay and enter into the Emperor's Service, to transport his Troops from *Genoa* and *Naples* to *Sicily*.

We left the Admiral at Sea, gathering together his Ships, which having done, he put into *Syracusa* the 19th, where he found Captain *Walton* and his Prizes. *Syracusa* was at that time blocked up by a Detachment of the Spanish Army, into which City Count *Maffei*, the Duke of *Savoy*'s Viceroy, had retreated with difficulty from *Palermo*, and had in the Place a numerous Garrison. But the first and principal Point of the Spanish General was to get *Mesina* into his Hands, as the safest Port for their Fleet, and the most proper Place to facilitate and secure the Conquest of the rest of the Island, and from whence they designed

signed to transport their numerous Horse, and the greatest part of their Foot, over to *Calabria*, and to have carried the War into the Kingdom of *Naples*. The Citadel of *Messina* was defended by a *Piedmontese* Garrison, commanded by the Marquis *D'Andorno*; but the Duke of *Savoy* being unable to withstand the Siege, had solicited the Emperor for his Assistance, and a Convention was made between the Viceroy of *Naples* and the Count *De Bourgue*, Resident of *Savoy*, whereby the former was to send a Detachment of *German* Troops, to be admitted into the Citadel on joint and equal Terms of Command; for which Service Baron *Wetzel* was dispatched away with 2000 Foot, as has been before related. But the Success of the *British* Fleet had raised such a Confidence in the Garrison of their Security against any Attempts from the *Spaniards*.

niards, that the Resident endeavoured to elude an Agreement, the Necessity of which he thought no longer subsisted, pretending want of Power to make such a Concession without an Equivalent, but that he would write to his Court for farther Orders. This coming to the Admiral's Knowledge, he represented in strong Terms to Count *Maffei*, " the " Unfairness of such a Proceeding, " and how contrary it was to what " he himself had agreed to in their " Conference together the Day be- " fore upon that Subject. That " such a Disagreement, at a time " that the Citadel was so vigorously " attacked by the Enemy, might be " a means of their taking it, which " the Reputation of the *English* " Fleet would not suffer him to be " an idle Spectator of; and there- " fore, if he was resolved to stay " till he had Instructions from the
" Court

Expedition to SICILY.

45

" Court of *Turin*, he should like-
" wise send to his Court for farther
" Orders; and in the mean time,
" would retire from the Island to
" some other Place, to refresh his
" Men, and refit his Ships, till he
" should receive new Directions from
" *England*." This had such an Ef-
fect upon the Viceroy, that he gave
immediate Orders for putting the
Agreement in Execution, and for
admitting *German* Troops into the
Citadel. This Point being adjusted,
the Admiral (having sent away Vice-
Admiral *Cornwall* with such of his
Ships as wanted refitting, and all the
Prizes, to *Port-Mahon*, with Orders
not to suffer the least Embezlement
to be made, but to preserve every
thing entire, till his Majesty's Plea-
sure should be known) sailed himself
the 23d of *August* from *Syracusa*,
and arrived the 26th at *Reggio*, where
General *Wetzel* informing him, that
he

Expedition to SICILY.

he hourly expected a Reinforcement of 4000 Men from *Naples*, which, with those he had with him, and the Garrison in the Citadel, would make about 9000 Men, and, upon their Arrival, he should form a Project for raising the Siege of the Citadel, if the Admiral would stay to countenance and protect him with his Fleet; he readily consented thereto, knowing the extreme Importance of not letting *Messina* fall into the Hands of the Enemy, and being directed by fresh Orders from *England* to do all he could to prevent it. But those Forces proving not sufficient for the Execution of the intended Project, the General contented himself with supplying the Citadel from time to time with fresh Troops from *Reggio*; notwithstanding which, the *Spaniards* pushed on the Siege with so much Vigor and Success, that the Governor surrendered the

the Citadel by Capitulation on the 29th of *September* to the great Surprise and Dissatisfaction of the *Germans*. The *Piedmontese* part of the Garrison was transported by Sea to *Syracusa*, and the *Germans* to *Reggio*.

The Admiral receiving Advice, that Rear-Admiral *Cammock* with three *Spanish* Men of War, and as many Frigates, which had escaped from the Battle, was at *Malta*; and that a rich *English* Merchant-ship homeward bound from *Turkey*, was detained in that Port, and in some danger; as likewise five *Sicilian* Gallies, which had taken Refuge there ever since the Arrival of the *Spanish* Fleet in *Sicily*; he stood over to that Island, where he learnt, that Rear-Admiral *Cammock* had sailed from thence five Days before, with four Ships which he had cleaned there. The Marquis *De Rivaroles*, General of the *Sicilian* Gallies, coming off
to

to the Admiral, made great Complaints of the Partiality and ill Usage of that Government, in suffering him to be exposed to daily Affronts from the *Spaniards*, and prayed his Protection and Assistance to get away from thence, upon which the Admiral sent his First Captain with his Compliments to the Grand Master, and desired, that those Gallies might have free Liberty to come out to him. The Grand Master sent off three great Crosses of the Order to the Admiral, who with much Politeness gave him all the Assurances possible of the Freedom of the Gallies to do what they pleased, upon which he sent word to the Marquis to come out. But he returning answer, That the *Spanish* Ships had laid themselves in the way to stop his Passage, and threatned to sink him, if he offered to stir, the Admiral sent to the Grand Master a second

Mef-

Message, That if he suffered the Neutrality of the Port to be violated, or any ill Treatment to be given to the Gallies, he should take the Measures that would be necessary on that occasion ; but the Grand Master protesting, that no Violence should be used, and that he would be answerable for it, the Admiral sent again to the Marquis to come out, assuring him, that if the *Spaniards* offered the least Obstruction, he would assist him to destroy them in the very Port ; but the Marquis continuing under great Perplexity and Terror, the Admiral, tired with his Delay, sent him word, that he was well satisfied of the Honour of the Grand Master in preserving the Privilege of the Port, and therefore, if he would not make use of the present Opportunity, he should suspect that his Fears were affected, and used only as an Artifice to stay there, and

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would give himself no farther trouble about him; and accordingly weighed, in order to depart, but this Message wrought so upon the Marquis, that he immediately hastned out with his Gallies, without any Obstruction from the Spaniards; but they were in so miserable a Condition, that the Admiral was forced to lend them Seamen and Pilots to navigate them, and Caulkers to stop their Leaks. The *Turkey* Ship came out likewise, and joined the Admiral, who sent the Gallies under a Convoy to *Syracusa*, and having seen the *Turkey* Merchant-Ship clear of Danger, he arrived the 2d of November in the Bay of *Naples*, from whence he sent Rear-Admiral *Delaval* with two 80 Gun Ships, and a Fire-Ship, home to *England*. Here the Count *De Luzan*, Son-in-law to the Marquis *De Rialp*, Secretary of State at *Vienna*, brought the

Expedition to SICILY.

51

the Admiral a gracious Letter from the Emperor, written with his own Hand, * and his Picture set round with large brilliant Diamonds.

The taking of *Messina* was a Point of great Consequence, as it made the *Spaniards* Masters of all *Sicily*, except *Syracusa*, *Trapani*, and *Melazzo* (where the Duke of *Savoy* had still Garrisons) and as it deprived the *English* Fleet of a Port to winter in, there being no other good Harbour in those Parts. The Emperor saw before him a difficult Task to get Possession of an Island, which the Quadruple Alliance had given him. The Duke of *Savoy* had only the three aforenamed Towns to deliver up, which he scrupled doing without the promised Equivalent, and the Emperor had it not to give him, But tho' the Emperor had gotten

* See Appendix.

those Places, the Recovery of the rest of the Island was to be a Work of Conquest. The *Spaniards* had an Army well appointed, well paid, and the Affections of the People on their side. They would have little feared any Enterprizes of the *Germans*, if the Sea had been neutral between them.

The Duke of *Savoy* finding himself under Circumstances of Difficulty, the *Spaniards* on the one hand taking most of his Towns in *Sicily* from him, and the Emperor on the other, by virtue of the Quadruple Alliance, demanding his Evacuation of the rest, whilst the Island of *Sardinia*, allotted to him by the same Treaty, remained in the Hands of the Enemy; and having Jealousy, that when the *Imperialists* had obtained their Island, he should be left to get the other as he could, and desiring, to have some reasonable Security

curity for the one; before he parted with his Interest in the other, a Convention was made between those Princes at *Vienna* (Monsieur *De St. Saphorin* the King's Minister assisting) dated 29th December 1718, whereby it was agreed to form an Army for an Expedition to *Sardinia* as soon as possible, towards which the Emperor was to furnish 6500 Foot, and 600 Horse, at his own Expence, and the Duke of *Savoy* was entirely to evacuate *Sicily*, and join 5000 Men of his Troops from that Island to act with the *Imperialists* on that Service; and in the mean time, till they could be transported from *Sicily*, they were to co-operate with the *Germans* against the common Enemy. This Treaty of Convention was sent to *Naples*, for the Viceroy, the Duke of *Savoy*'s Minister, and the Admiral, to consult together of the best means to put

it in Execution. The Busness hung long perplexed with Difficulties on the part of the Minister of *Savoy*, from a Jealousy and Distrust of the *Germans*, but the Admiral interposing, and removing by degrees all Scruples, an Agreement was at last concluded and signed between them, upon which the Minister of *Savoy* delivered to the Viceroy his Master's Orders to Count *Maffei* to evacuate the Towns in his Possession to the *Imperialists*. But the Expedition against *Sardinia* did not go on, as will be shewn anon.

The Winter being now set in, the Viceroy and Admiral held frequent Consultations together, about the farther Operations against the Enemy. It was judged absolutely necessary to maintain the Post of *Melazzo*, which had been long blockaded, and was now besieged by the *Spanish* Army, both sides making this their principal Point during the Winter, the one

to

to hold their Footing in the Island by means of this Place; the other, by taking it, to shut them out. All the Troops from *Reggio*, and some Horse from *Naples*, being got into the Town under the Command of the Generals *Caraffa* and *Veterani*, it was resolved in a Council of War held the 14th of October, to sally out upon the Enemy. Accordingly the next Morning by break of Day, they marched out in two Columns, the first consisting of six, and the other of five Battalions, and attacked the *Spaniard's* Entrenchments, which they carried after an Engagement of four Hours, and got possession of their Camp in the Center and on the left, with three Pieces of Cannon. But the Soldiers falling to plunder, the *Spaniards* rallied on their right, and the Marquis *De Lede* coming up at the same time with fresh Troops from *Messina*, which had lain short the

Night before, they attacked the *Germans* in their Turn, and drove them back into their Camp under the Walls of the Town, whose Artillery protected their Retreat, and prevented a greater Slaughter. In this Action about 1200 Men were killed or wounded on each Side, and General *Veterani* was taken.

Melazzo is an ill fortified Town, on the North Side of the Island of *Sicily*, not far distant from the *Fare*, standing on a Neck of Land which runs out into the Sea like an *Isthmus*. *Caraffa* being recalled to *Naples*, Baron *Zumjungen* arrived at *Melazzo* the 27th of November, to command the Forces; And being followed by the Generals *Wachtendonck* and *Seckendorf*, with large Supplies of Troops from *Italy*, and the place being too strait to contain them, they carried their Entrenchments out of the Town, within less than Pistol Shot of those

of

of the *Spaniards*, so that neither Side being able to advance farther, both lay all the Winter in an unwholsome Situation, it being low bad Ground, and the Trenches filled with Water in rainy, and by the Sea in blowing Weather, so that great Numbers of Men perished on both Sides. The *Germans* had no Provisions but what came from time to time in small Embarcations from *Calabria*, and other Ports of *Naples*. Rear-Admiral *Cam-mock*, who was got with his Squadron into *Messina*, and the Inhabitants of the Island of *Lipari*, who are esteemed bold Mariners, and have many armed Vessels, lay in the way of intercepting those Supplies, and the least disappointment must have starved the Garrison, for their Consumption was very great, and they had no Magazines. It was very hard Service, unknown and astonishing to the Pilots of that Country, to employ Ships

Ships cruizing in those dangerous Seas, during the Rigor of the Winter Season. For, when the Westerly or Northerly Winds blow, there is so little Sea-room in that narrow Station, and the Currents set in so strong upon the *Calabrian* Shore, accompanied with a vast rolling Sea, that it is extremely difficult for Ships to work to Windward, or indeed to hold their own, and avoid stranding on a Lee Shore. The Admiral had appointed a Squadron under the Command of Captain *Walton*, to cruize upon this Station, to hinder Rear-Admiral *Cammock* from coming out of the *Fare*, and to secure the Passage of the Vessels with Provisions for the *German* Camp. It chanced to prove such tempestuous Weather, that no Provisions had arrived in a Month at *Melazzo*, and Captain *Walton* was blown off from his Station, and had not been seen or heard of in six and twenty

Expedition to SICILY.

59

twenty days. Rear-Admiral *Cammock* took hold of this Opportunity to get out of *Messina* the Moment that the Weather abated, and appearing before *Tropea* with English Colours, sent a Letter ashore to the Governor, under a fictitious Name of one of the English Captains, acquainting him, that he was come there by Admiral *Byng's* Orders, to convoy the Embarcations with Provisions to *Melazzo*, and pressed him to dispatch them away, the Place being in the utmost distress. Had this Stratagem succeeded, it would have entirely ruined the Emperor's Affairs in *Sicily*; but the Governor happening to be a wary Man, and observing the Letter to be written on *Genoa* Paper, from that single Circumstance, conceived a Suspicion, which made him refuse to send the Embarcations out to him. In the mean time, the Admiral being made sensible of the Extremities
the

the *Germans* were reduced to, had no other way left, than to fill four Men of War (just arrived at *Naples* from *Portmahon*) with Provisions, directing their Captains to attempt at all hazards to get to *Melazzo*, which three of them did with much difficulty and danger, (the 4th being disabled by bad Weather) and came providentially to the Relief of the Garrison at a time they must otherwise have surrendered to the Enemy, or perished by Famine. A few days after, Captain *Walton* recovered his Station, upon the Sight of whom Rear-Admiral *Cammock* retired into *Messina*.

Melazzo being rescued from Danger, and reinforced daily with fresh Supplies of Men and Provisions, the *Spaniards* despairing to take the Place, turned the Siege into a Blockade, and worked hard in fortifying their own Entrenchments, in order to keep the *Germans* pent up in the Town, and obstruct

obstruct the Descent of the Army expected in the Spring.

The Admiral having made a proper Disposition of Ships in different Stations round the Island, to keep the Sea open to the *Germans*, and shut to the *Spaniards*, was preparing to depart with the rest that had suffered by bad Weather, to refit at *Portmahon*, when the Viceroy entreated him to assist at a Conference to be held at the Palace, where he met the Generals *Caraffa*, *Wetzel*, and the *Marquis de Fuencalada*, General of the Neapolitan Gallies. The Viceroy opened it by acquainting them, " that a Truce with the *Turks* being concluded, Prince *Eugene* was sending from *Hungary* a body of about 6000 Horse, and 10000 Foot, which added to the Troops in *Melazzo*, was thought a sufficient Number for the Conquest of the Island ; That they would probably

“ bly arrive at *Naples* in the begin-
“ ning of *March*, and he should be
“ glad to know their Sentiments of
“ the properest Place for their land-
“ ing in *Sicily*, and touched on se-
“ veral Propositions about it, as at
“ *Syracusa* or *Taormina*, on the *East*
“ Side of the Island, or at *Patti* on
“ the North Side, not far Westward
“ from *Melazzo*.” General *Caraffa*
objected to the landing at *Syracusa*,
“ as it would be a means of prolong-
“ ing the War; that the Place was
“ too distant from the Enemy, and
“ *Augusta* and *Catania* lying in their
“ way, the Siege of those Places
“ would cost more Time and Men
“ than could be spared, besides the
“ garrisoning them afterwards. That
“ their March from thence to the
“ Enemy lay for the most part over
“ barren Mountains, amongst a dis-
“ affected People, where they should
“ find no Subsistence but what they
“ carried

" carried with them ; and the passing afterwards through narrow Defilez into the Plain of *Melazzo*, where the Enemy lay, was to attack them at too great a disadvantage : and therefore he concluded for seeking the Enemy as soon as possible, and for that End to land as near to them as might be. General *Wetzel* being next to speak, preferred the landing at *Syracusa*, as it would be a work of Ease and Safety, and done without Interruption ; that it would probably draw some of the Enemy's Force that way, and so relieve the Troops in *Melazzo* ; that it would expose the Army too much to land in the Neighbourhood of the Enemy, who seeing them approaching from the Sea, would easily guess at the Place they designed to land at, and leaving a Guard in their Camp, march a sufficient Body

“ dy of Troops to oppose the De-
“ scent, which was a difficult and
“ tedious Work in it self, especially
“ with regard to the debarking the
“ Horse.” *Caraffa* asking him, how
long he thought the Enemy might be
marching to the landing Place, after
they knew where it would be, and
Wetzel allowing eight hours, *Caraf-
fa* reply’d, the Foot could be all land-
ed in that time, and formed into
proper Order to receive the Enemy,
and the landing the Horse might be
afterwards a work of leisure. But
Wetzel adhered to his Opinion. The
General of the Gallies next, in a ve-
ry long discourse, “ excused himself
“ from giving any Opinion upon a
“ Subject that related to the Land
“ Service, and referring himself to
“ what the two Generals had said be-
“ fore him, concluded, that great
“ Caution ought to be taken, which
“ ever Opinion should be followed.”

The

The Admiral gathering from their Discourse, that part of the expected Troops were to embark at *Fiume* and *Trieste*, and to come round by Sea to *Reggio*, and probably pass on thro' the *Fare to Naples*, told them, " that " Land Forces should be trusted to " the Sea as little as possible, espe- " cially in that early and uncertain " Season ; that if they landed at " *Manfredonia* on the *Adriatick Side*, " the Traject would be short, and " their March more certain to their " Rendezvous at *Naples*." He then " went on to deliver his Opinion, " That the Troops they expected " were not sufficient to recover the " Island from the Enemy. That it " was a great Error to hold the *Spa- " niards* in Contempt, whose beha- " viour hitherto in *Sicily* had given no " reason for it : That they were be- " come used to Arms and Hardships, " and the *Germans* would find them like

“ other Men. That, according to
“ a Calculation he had made, when
“ those Troops should be joined to
“ the Forces in *Melazzo*, they would
“ not be able, after leaving the ne-
cessary Garrisons in the Towns
“ which the Duke of *Savoy* was to
“ deliver up, to bring into the Field
“ a greater Number than what the
“ Spanish Army was reported to be;
“ and that without a considerable
“ Superiority, little Success was to
“ be expected in a Country, where
“ the Illwill of the People towards
“ them, and their Inclinations to the
“ Spaniards were so very evident,
“ that they were to hope for no As-
sistance, but expect every distress
“ from them.” He added, “ that
“ they were not to look upon the
“ Enemy as a mouldering Army,
“ for notwithstanding all the Care
“ of his Cruizers, they received fre-
“ quent Recruits from *Spain* and

“ *Sardinia*,

"Sardinia, and even from Italy, in
"open Vessels and Boats, which
"was not always in his Power to
"prevent. And besides, the *Mar-*
"*quis de Lede* had lately raised four
"Regiments of Foot, and one of
"Horse in the Island it self." The
Viceroy acknowledged the Force of
his Reasoning, but lamented the
distance of the Court of *Vienna*,
which hindered them from seeing in-
to and considering enough these dif-
ficulties, and who pursued only one
Maxim, that if they sent Men, they
ought to conquer. The Admiral
proposed, that an Officer should be
sent to *Vienna*, to represent the Po-
ture of Affairs to that Court in a bet-
ter light than they seemed to view
them in, and to bring back their fi-
nal Resolutions concerning the Ope-
rations of the War; and Count *Ha-*
milton was pitched upon for that Pur-
pose.

The Conference being ended, the Admiral took his leave of the Viceroy, and set sail the 3d of February for Portmahon, to refit his Ships, and put them in a Condition to go on early with the Operations of the Campaign, leaving his eldest Son at Naples to manage his Correspondence with the Viceroy, and to inform the Court of England of all Occurrences in those Parts.

Captain *Mathews* being left with a Squadron at Pentemelia, to observe Rear-Admiral *Cammock*, and hinder his escaping out of Messina to the Southward, had the good fortune to run one of them ashore, a Ship of 64 Guns, called the *Srd Rosalia*; and another called the *St. Pedro* of 60 Guns was cast away in Tarento Bay. *Cammock* himself endeavouring to get away to Spain in a small Frigat of 22 Guns, was chased the 6th February by a Ship of Captain *Mathews*'s Squadron,

dron, and escaped with much difficulty in his Boat to *Catania*, but the Frigat was taken, with all his Effects and Papers, amongst which was a Commission from the *Pretender*, appointing him Admiral of the white Squadron.

This unhappy Man was a Native of *Ireland*, and being bred up at Sea, had raised himself to the Post of a Captain, and served in Queen *Anne's* War, with no bad Character. But associating himself with those who were Enemies to the House of *Hanover*, and becoming obnoxious to the Government, on the Accession of that Family to the Crown he abandoned his Country, and entered into the Service of *Spain*, where he was promoted to the Rank of a Rear-Admiral, and served in that Post in the Expedition against *Sicily*. He had never been noted to want Courage, but in the Action of *Passaro*, he ran away

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among the first, and escaped to *Malta*, affording an Instance, how much a Consciousness of Guilt and Dread of Punishment depresses the Heart, more than the Fear of an Enemy. He was a vain boasting Man, with a roving unsettled Head, filled with airy Schemes and Projects, without any Judgement or Discretion. He assured *Signor Patinho*, that he could put most of the *English* Fleet into his Hands, in recompence for that which he had lost ; and in that senseless Confidence, wrote a Letter to the Admiral, to let him know, that he had the *Pretender's* Commands to assure him, if he would bring over the greatest part of his Fleet to *Messina*, or to any Port in *Spain*, he would create him Duke of *Albermarle*, with a Royal Bounty of one hundred thousand Pounds to support the Honour and Dignity of that Rank ; and that every Captain should have ten thousand

thousand Pounds, and the Seamen a Gratuity of two Month's Wages. That *Signor Patinho* would satisfy him of the King of Spain's Security for the Performance of this Agreement; and that no Body else but the Dukes of *Ormond* and *Mar* were in the secret. Whether he wrote by Direction or not, does not appear, but the Letter met with the Contempt it deserved. He likewise sent another Letter to Captain *Walton*, with the Promise of a Reward of ten thousand Pounds, a Commission of Admiral of the Blue, and to be made an *English* Peer, if he would bring his Ships into *Messina*, which the honest Captain brought to the Admiral, with vehement Expressions of Abhorrence and Indignation.

Signor Patinho had hitherto resided in *Messina*, directing the Affairs of the Island for the Interest of his Master with great Prudence; but his

Expedition to SICILY.

Presence being wanted at the Court of Spain, he embarked on Board a clean *Felucca*, on the 16th *January*, in the Night, and put to Sea, attended by two Gallies. If the Darkness had continued an hour longer, he would have unavoidably fallen into the Mouths of two of our Cruizers, which chased his Gallies into a Bay near *Palermo*, but the *Felucca* escaped and landed him in *Italy*, from whence he proceeded to *Madrid*, and by his Councils and Industry all Methods were used for supporting their Army in *Sicily* with Recruits of Men, and all Necessaries of War. The *Venetians* and *Genoese*, and even the *French* Consuls in the Ports of *Italy*, notwithstanding the severe Prohibitions of the Regent, were corrupted to give them all the Assistance possible; and though many Vessels were taken, many escaped. As to the *French*, the Admiral found himself under

under a difficulty how to treat the Ships of a Nation that was in strict Alliance with *England*: He made loud Complaints of their Partiality, 'till at last the Regent gave him leave to confiscate all those he met with in the Service of *Spain*, which put some stop to their clandestine Proceedings.

It may not be improper to mention here an Instance or two of the unfair Practice of other Nations at this time upon the *English* Trade, and which it is to be apprehended will always be the Case, whenever *England* is engaged in Foreign Wars. The Admiral having Intelligence from *Genoa*, that a Privatier of 24 Guns had been fitted out by *French* Merchants of that Place, and was cruizing with a *Spanish* Commission off of Cape *Corso*, and having no small Frigates with him, he converted the *Loo* Hospital Ship into a Frigat, and putting 20 Guns and 100

Men

Men into her, sent her, under the Command of Captain *Prothero*, in quest of the said *Privatier*. The Captain fortunately met with her off of the Island of *Cyraia*, and after a smart Engagement, took her. She had 130 Men, most *French*, of whom 56 were killed, and 19 wounded, with the Loss only of two Men in the *Loo*, and four wounded. The Admiral directed the Prisoners to be sent to *Thoulon*, and delivered into the Custody of the Intendant: And he wrote to the *English* Ambassador at *Paris* to represent those Proceedings to the Regent, to whose Justice he left the Prisoners.

Another Ship was fitted out at *Venice* with 50 Guns and 250 Men, all *Venetians*, except three *Spaniards* and eight *English*, and having taken a *Spanish* Commission at *Malta*, which *Signor Patinho* had lodged there for her, she went a cruizing on the Coast

Coast of Spain. The Admiral being informed of it, sent the *Orford* and *Rupert* after her, the latter of which meeting with her off of *Peniscola*, engaged and took her by Boarding, having killed 61 Men, and wounded 29, with the Loss only of one Man killed, and three wounded.

The Admiral having refitted most of his Squadron at *Portmahon*, hastened away from thence with four Men of War the 30th *March*, leaving the rest to follow him, and arrived the 4th *April* at *Naples*, where he hoped to find the Army from *Hungary* arrived, and in a readiness to embark; but contrary to his Expectations, he saw every thing in extreme Backwardness, partly for want of Money.

On the 23d of *April* Count de *Mercy* arrived at *Naples* from *Vienna*, to take upon him the Command of the whole

whole Army. He was a Native of Lorrain, but brought up in the Emperor's Service, where he had risen to the Rank of General of the Horse. He was of a tall graceful Presence, with a very soldierlike Appearance, but had the Misfortune of being short sighted, almost to Purblindness. He had great Strength of Body and Mind, and was indefatigable in the use of both, when necessary. He was full of Fire, and his Conversation abounded with Wit and Humour. He had great Skill in Courting and Caressing Persons, when he wanted to gain any Point, but at other times his Behaviour discovered much Haughtiness. He had an insatiable Thirst for Glory, which was seconded by a bold and most resolute Temper, always heading his Troops himself, and seemed to have a sort of Passion for fighting. He was seldom in any Action but he was wounded,

Expedition to SICILY.

77

wounded, and was not esteemed a fortunate Officer. He despised an Enemy too much, was impatient for Engaging, and had the Character of not caring what Men he sacrificed to obtain his Purpose, tho' a few day's Patience might perhaps have succeeded as well without it, which Opinion made the Soldiery uneasy under him, as they were in continual Apprehensions of being led to the Slaughter. Upon the whole, as he had great Parts, and great Experience of Service, he must have made a great General (as he was a compleat fine Gentleman) if he had had a cooler Temper, or could have commanded it better. But with all his Faults he was certainly in the Superior Rank of Men, of which there needs no better Proof, than that he was a favourite of Prince Eugene. He was now going to encounter an old School-fellow in the *Marquis de Lede,*

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Leede, who was a *Fleming* by birth, and a good General under a quite opposite Character, being as different from the other in Person, as he was in temper. He was of a low misshapen Stature, not affable or open in his Disposition, but much esteemed for his Judgement and Prudence, and was of great military Experience too. He was as cautious and circumspect as the other was bold and enterprizing ; and in this respect both seemed to be in their proper Employment, the one in a Situation of Defence, the other of Attack. It was thought, that in the Course of this War, he slipt some Opportunities, which the Oversight or Wants of the *Germans* gave him of acting upon them to Advantage ; but he considered, that he was in a Country where he was shut up from receiving any considerable Supplies of Men, while the Enemy poured in what

Numbers

Numbers they pleased, and that any large Diminution of his Troops might endanger the whole, and therefore made it a principal Point to preserve his Army as much as possible, and with the Advantage of the Passes, and the Affection of the Country-People, to distress and disable his Adversary, which he effected with much Skill and Wisdom, and maintained the Honour of the Arms of *Spain* with great Reputation; and at last, when the King his Master was forced, by the weight of the Alliances against him, to relinquish the Island, he brought a gallant Army back into *Spain*.

The City of *Naples* was at this time full of General Officers, and Persons of high Quality and Distinction, and abounded in all the Pleasures of that delightful Climate. The Viceroy was studious of making the Place agreeable to the Admiral,

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as much out of Affection, as Politeness. On the Festival Day of St. *Januarius*, he appointed him a Box near his own, to behold that famous Ceremony. The Blood continued long without liquifying at the Approach of the Head of the Saint. The vast concourse of People began to shew Signs of Concern: They fell first to praying, afterwards proceeded to Groans and Lamentations; and at length such a confused Murmuring and Uneasiness was perceived amongst them, that the Viceroy being apprehensive of some ill Consequences, sent Count *Hamilton* to the Admiral, to beg he would not take it ill, if he desired him to retire, not knowing what effect it might have upon the Populace, if they should take it into their Heads to attribute the failing of the Miracle to the Saint's being displeased at his Presence. The Admiral had no sooner quitted

quitted his Box, and was stepping into the Viceroy's Coach, but he heard a prodigious Shout of, *é fatto, é fatto, it is done, it is done*, and such Joy and Exultation appeared in every Countenance, as if they had been delivered from some terrible Calamity.

Whilst the Troops were arriving, and the Vessels to transport them getting ready, the Admiral assisted at several Conferences with the Vice-roy and the General, about the intended Descent on *Sicily*. All agreed, that *Syracusa* was out of the way, but it was not so easy to determine, whether it would be best to land at *Palermo*, or near *Melazzo*. The former was judged safest, and would not only make them Masters of the Capital City, but also of the fertile Province of *Mazzara*, from whence they might easily draw Provisions and Necessaries for the Subsistence of the Army. But the latter was most

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expeditious, as it would press the Enemy closer, and bring Matters more quickly to a Decision; and this last Opinion prevailed. But when they came to examine into the State of their Military Stores, they were so deficient in a Train of Artillery, that the Admiral yielded to supply them with Cannon, Powder and Ball from the *Spanish* Prizes, rather than suffer time to be lost for want thereof.

All things being at length got ready, the Army embarked, consisting of 10000 Foot, and 3500 Horse, all choice Troops, and the Flower of those that had lately served victoriously in *Hungary*. The Admiral set sail from the Bay of *Bayæ* the 22d of *May*, with eight Men of War, and above 200 Transports; and on the 27th in the Evening arrived before *Melazzo*, from whence General *Zumjungen* came off, and advised Count

Count *De Mercy* to land in the Bay of *Patti*, about 20 Miles Westward, the Coast to the Eastward being all guarded by the Enemy. Upon this, so good a Disposition and Order was made, that the next Morning early all the Foot landed in less than two Hours, and most of the Cavalry by Three in the Afternoon, having only lost two Horses in the Voyage.

Upon the landing of the *Imperialists*, the Marquis *De Lede* decamped with Precipitation, and marched, without halting, to *Franca Villa*, a strong Post 32 Miles distant, in a mountainous Country, and from whence three Roads led, to *Palermo*, *Messina*, and *Syracusa*. Count *De Mercy* arrived by easy Marches at *Melazzo*, and found in the *Spanish* Camp some Cannon, with Ammunition and Utensils of War, which the hast of the *Spaniards* had left behind. The Admiral coasting along

with the Army, anchored before *Melazzo*, and landed there the Remainder of the Horse, with the Tents, and other Necessaries of War.

Whilst Matters were preparing here for the farther Operations of the Army, Count *Seckendorf* was detached with a Body of 2500 Foot, and 150 Horse, to reduce the Islands of *Lipari* to the Emperor's Obedience, which he effected, after some Resistance, in four Days time. This Conquest was absolutely necessary to keep open the Navigation between *Naples* and *Sicily*, which had been disturbed by the armed Vessels of those Islands. *Lipari*, the principal Island, is said to contain 8000 Inhabitants, a bold People, addicted to Pillage, and the best Mariners in those Parts.

It was now under Deliberation, whether the Army should go and besiege *Messina*, or follow the *Spaniards*, who

who were strongly entrenching themselves at *Franca Villa*. *Messina* had a numerous Garrison, and was well provided for a long Siege, which might wast away the Summer, whilst the *Spaniards* got in the Corn, now near ripe, and kept the Magazines of the Island in their Possession. It was therefore determin'd to march towards the Enemy, and to endeavour to bring them to a Battle. The hasty Retreat they had made from *Melazzo* animated Count *De Mercy* so much, that he did not imagine they would make any great Stand at *Franca Villa*, but that he should * trample them under Foot, (which was his Expression) when he came up with them. The way to the Enemy lay through a barren mountainous Country, and it took up so much time to get together a few

* Qu'il leur passeroit sur le ventre.

Mules and Horses for Carriage from *Calabria*, that the Army did not move from *Melazzo* till the 17th of *June*, amounting to about 21000 Men. They suffered a most painful March of three Days, thro' wild unknown Roads, broken up, and rendered almost unpassable by the Enemy, conducted by ignorant Guides, and climbing over cragged Rocks and Precipices, the Soldiers oppressed with the weight of their Ammunition, and six Days Bread which they carried, besides their Arms, with a fiery Sun burning over their Heads, and harrassed and assaulted all along from the Heights and Eminences by the armed Peasants of the Country, mixed with some *Spaniſh* Foot; but arriving the 19th in the Afternoon on the top of the Mountain of *Tre Fontane*, they discovered the Enemy encamped below in the Valley of *Franca Villa*. At the sight of

of their Camp, a Shout of Joy ran through the whole Army, in hopes of coming to a decisive Action, which seemed to promise favourably to them, it not being imagined, that the Enemy could post themselves in a bottom with so much Advantage against an Army descending from higher Ground upon them.

The Situation of the *Spanish* Camp was in this manner. The rapid River *Cantara*, whose Banks are of a steep quick Rock, from six to eight Foot perpendicularly deep, and runs thro' the Valley of *Franca Villa*, was in their Front. Their Left was on the rising Grounds about *Franca Villa* (the Town lying behind in their Center) and extended to a high Mountain, where they had placed some armed Peasants, and a few Foot. On the other side of the River, (but joined by a Bridge to the Town of *Franca Villa*) was a steep Rock, with

a Convent of *Capuchins* upon it. Here they placed five Battalions of their best Troops, in as many Rows of Entrenchments cut into the Rock, one above the other; and at the Point of the Rock was a small Battery of two Pieces of Cannon of Three-pounders. On their Right they had carried on a Fortification of large Stones, like a Wall, all along the River, as far as a high rocky Hill, which had a Convent on the top, as advantageously fortified as that of the *Capuchins*; and close behind the Hill, the steep River *Castiglione* runs into the *Cantara*, by means of which Confluence, and the neighbouring Mountains being guarded by armed Peasants, the *Spaniards* were secure from any Danger in their Rear. It was unfortunate to the *Germans*, that not one Deserter, nor even a Peasant of the Country (who were all up in Arms in favour of the

the Spaniards) came over to give them the least Information, so that they knew little of the Strength and Advantage of the Enemy's Post, till they came to Action, and were within Musquet-shot of their Trenches.

Count *De Mercy* made a Disposition for attacking the Enemy that Evening at three different Places. He detached all the first Line of Foot, consisting of sixteen Battalions, and twenty-three Companies of Grenadiers, with three hundred Hussars, under the Command of General *Zumjungen*, to an adjoining Hill on the Left. He had under him the Lieutenant-Generals *Wallis*, *Wachendonck*, and the Prince of *Holstein*. Upon that Hill General *Zumjungen* was to separate his Men in two Bodies, the one under the Command of *Wallis*, consisting of eight Battalions and eleven Companies of Grenadiers, being to descend on the Right,

Expedition to SICILY.

Right, whilst Zumjungen did the same on the Left with eight Battalions, twelve Companies of Grenadiers and the Hussars. All the Horse and second Line of Foot, this consisting of twelve Battalions under Lieutenant-General Seckendorf, and the Horse under Lieutenant-General Count D'Eck, consisting of thirty-five Squadrons, including three Companies of Horse-Grenadiers and as many Carabiniers, were at the same time to descend from the Mountain of *Tre Fontane*, and join the other Bodies below. Before all this could be effected, Night came on, which obliged them to put off the Attack till the next Morning; and at break of Day the second Line of Foot being got down, and meeting with ten or twelve Squadrons of the Enemy in the Valley, they obliged them, as they advanced, to retire towards their Entrenchments. When the Army was

Expedition to SICILY.

91

was got down to the Places appointed in the Valley, Count *De Mercy* perceiving, that the Enemy possessed several considerable Posts on a Hill to his Right, from whence they would flank him in his Attack, he ordered Lieutenant-General *Seckendorf*, and the Prince of *Hesse-Cassel*, with six Battalions to endeavour to dislodge them from thence, and then to descend and rejoin the Army in the general Attack, which the Generals *Zumjungen* and *Wallis* were ordered to defer till they saw *Seckendorf* engaged, and descending towards them. The Hill being very steep and difficult, and the Enemy being very advantageously posted, *Seckendorf* was obliged to make many Windings, which took up much time to get up to them. In the mean time the Enemy seeing that Detachment, sent more Foot thither, which made Count *De Mercy* strengthen him

him with four Battalions more, so that it was four in the Afternoon before they all arrived on the top of the Mountain. *Seckendorf* having his ten Battalions together, drove the Enemy down to the bottom of the Mountain, and from thence to their Entrenchments, and if Night had not come on too soon, it was thought he would have been able to have forced his way into their Lines, which at that Place were weakest, and easy to be penetrated. At the same time four Companies of Grenadiers of *Wallis's* Body attacked a Post of the Enemy on the Back of the same Hill, and drove them from thence, whilst the rest of the Grenadiers (being seven Companies) sustained by the Battalions of the same Body, and the Regiment of Dragoons of *Anspach*, attacked a small Entrenchment which the Enemy had made across the Valley, and having car-

carried it, they advanced on towards the Rock of the *Capuchins*, which they attacked about six in the Evening, being reinforced by two Battalions of *Leffelholtz*, which Count *De Mercy* had drawn from the Left to sustain them. Here was very warm and bloody Work, the *Germans* being exposed to a continual Fire from the several Trenches of the Enemy on the sides of the Rock. During this Attack, Count *D'Eck*, with the Carabiniers and Horse-Grenadiers, followed by the Regiments of Horse of *Tiege*, *Hanover* and *Portugal*, traversed the Valley within half Musquet shot of the Enemy, and placed himself to the Left of *Zumjungen*, the Plain there appearing large enough for the Horse to act, and to sustain *Zumjungen's* Attack, and penetrate with him into the Enemies Entrenchments. But this Motion of the Horse crossing *Zumjungen* in his

his March, did very much retard his Attack, so that it was late before he attacked three Cassines which stood near the River, within eighty Paces of the Enemy's Lines, which he took, not without loss of Men. Here the Prince of *Holstein* was mortally wounded, and being left on the Field of Battle, he sent to the Marquis *De Lede*, who caused him to be carried into *Franca Villa*, where he died three Days after. While *Zumjungen* was disposing his Troops to attack the Entrenchments, by the way of a Mill which lay on the River opposite to the Cassines, he perceived the *Hessian* Battalions on his Right following by mistake the two Battalions of *Leffelholtz* to the Rock of the *Capuchins*, which disappointed his Design, for it was Night before they returned. Count *De Mercy* animated his Troops every where by his Presence and Example, heading

heading himself the two Battalions of *Leffelholtz* at the Attack of the *Cappuchins*, and after having one Horse killed under him and two disabled, he was at last himself dangerously wounded in the Reins with a Musquet Ball. Night coming on put an End to the Action, and left things undecided, except that the *Germans* maintained some small Posts they had gained, which served to straiten the Enemy in their Camp. In this Action the *Germans* had 846 Men killed and 2449 wounded, amongst the latter the Admiral's second Son, very dangerously, who served as a Voluntier. The *Spaniards* had about 1500 Men killed or wounded.

Count *De Mercy* having withdrawn his wounded Men in the Night, ranged his Army in order to renew the Attack next Morning; but the Action of the day before having convinced the other Generals of the strong

strong Situation of the Enemy, and perceiving the Soldiers extremely dispirited and dejected with their Hardships and ill Success, they with much difficulty prevailed upon him not to persist in that Resolution, but by extending to the left, endeavour to cut off the Enemy from *Messina*, and open a Communication with the English Convoy, which (according to agreement) was to rendezvous in *Schiso-Bay* near *Taormina* a Sea-port Town, about three Hours distant from *Franca Villa*, with the Transports laden with Provisions, Ammunition, Baggage and other Necesaries, which the Army stood in extreme need of. Here was a Contingency of great Hazard and Danger, which gave the Germans much Fear and Uneasiness. For it might have happened, that the Winds had hindered the Convoy from passing thro' the *Fare*. Or, if they should have gained

gained their Passage into *Schiso* Bay, *Taormina* and all that Coast was possessed by the Enemy, and it was possible that the Ships might not be able to open a Communication with the Shore. Or still, if both those Points succeeded, the establishing a Correspondence between the Sea and the Camp, thro' a hostile Country, was another Work of Hazard and Difficulty; and a disappointment in any one of them was the inevitable Ruin of the whole Army, who saw themselves near the End of their Provisions, without any other Possibility of getting more. But they were soon delivered from their Fears, by hearing that the Convoy was safely arrived in *Schiso* Bay; that the Sailors had taken and destroyed a small Fort of two Guns, which had endeavoured to molest their anchoring; and that the Guns of the Men of War had dispersed a Body of Troops;

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which the *Marquis de Spinola* had sent from *Messina* to the Sea-Side, to oppose them. Upon this reviving News, Count *De Mercy* sent General *Wachtendonck*, with 3000 Foot and 500 Horse, down to encamp at the Sea-side where the Ships lay at Anchor, and ordered the Roads, which were hardly passable, to be repaired under the Direction of Enginier General *Schmettau*; and having got some Field Pieces from the Ships up to the Camp, he greatly annoyed the Enemy, who lay beneath him. This Communication was too important for the *Marquis de Lede* not to endeavour to interrupt it, and, amongst many Skirmishes that daily happened, a Party of 700 Spanish Horse fell in with the Bread Wagons and Mules that were returning from the Sea-side, laden with Provisions for the Camp, and guarded only by 300 Horse. The defence

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the *Germans* made, was reckoned a galant Action, and I am sorry my Materials do not mention the Commander's Name. A small Party of Foot, that happened to be in the Neighbourhood, hearing the Fire, and coming up to their Assistance, they put the *Spaniards* to Flight, and conducted the Waggons and Mules safe to the Camp.

Let us now return to the Admiral. When Count *De Mercy* parted from him at *Melazzo*, to go in quest of the *Spanish Army*, it was his design to return to *Naples*, and put things there in motion for an intended Expedition to *Sardinia*, which the Duke of *Savoy* had much at heart, and was no less pressed by the Courts of *England* and *France*. But reflecting within himself, that the impetuous Temper of the *German General*, and the Contempt he saw he had of the Enemy, might possibly

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bring about some Occasions that would want his Assistance, he tarried a few days on the Coast in uneasy Expectation of the News of the Success of the March from *Melazzo*. The armed Peasants had cut off all Communication between *Franca Villa* and *Melazzo*; so that the first mis-doubt he entertained that things had not gone well, was from hearing the firing of the Guns at *Messina*, and at the *Fare*, and seeing great Illuminations made along the Coast. Soon after, he perceived the Neapolitan Gallies rowing out of the *Fare*, and the General of them coming on board, gave him an imperfect account of the Action, but enough to satisfy him that it had not been fortunate; upon which he immediately embarked two Battalions from the Garrison of *Melazzo*, and about a thousand Recruits who were just arrived there, and sent them the same day

day under a Convoy through the *Fare* to *Schiso* Bay. In the Evening he received Letters from Count *De Mercy*, informing him of the particulars of the whole Action, with the great difficulties he laboured under, and uncertainty what to do, earnestly pressing him to come to the Camp, that they might confer and consult together. Upon this, the Admiral sent his first Captain with his own Ship and two others to *Naples*, by whom he sent a Letter to the Viceroy, giving his Opinion, that all thoughts of an Expedition to *Sardinia* should be laid aside for the present, and the Troops which could be spared from his Government, sent immediately into *Sicily*, 'till whose Arrival all things there would be at a Stand ; and that he had sent his Officers and Ships to assist in and expedite that Service. He then embarked on Board the Gene-

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ral of the Gallies, laying aside the Ceremony of his Flag and Character, and in his way to *Schiso*, Count *de Lignerville* came to him in a *Felucca*, bringing fresh Letters from Count *De Mercy*, which expressed his great Impatience to see him. Being landed at *Schiso*, General *Wachtendonck* renewed the same Entreaties, which the Admiral's Zeal did not want, who accepting that General's Horses, and forgetting for a while his own Station and Element, sat out under a strong Escorte, attended by Captain *Matthews* and his eldest Son, and passing thro' Roads strewed with dead Bodies of Men and Horses, that had fallen in Skirmishes the days before between the Sea-side and the Camp, he alighted at Count *De Mercy's* Tent in the Evening, where a Guard of Grenadiers being drawn out for his Reception, one of them was shot through the head by

by a Musquet-Ball from the Enemy's Camp, at the door of the Tent, and fell down dead at his Feet. He found the General very weak and faint with his wound, the Ball still remaining in his Reins, but as he had a Magnanimity of Spirit superior to his Condition, it did not hinder them from entering into Conversation on the melancholy Situation of their Affairs. The General
“ made great Complaints of Zum-
“ jungen, to whose Slowness in
“ marching and coming so late in-
“ to Action, he attributed his ill
“ Success. He said, he himself
“ was still of Opinion to make ano-
“ ther Attack upon the Enemy, ra-
“ ther than decamp and retire, but
“ that his Officers in general were
“ against it ; and in that Case he
“ saw nothing left for them to do,
“ but to go down and join their
“ Forces at the Sea-side, and march

" into the Corn Country about *Ca-*
" *tania* and *Syracusa*, for their bet-
" ter Subsistence. That he had
" wrote for two Battalions of *Sa-*
" *voyards* to be sent to him from *Sy-*
" *racusa*, which, with the Troops
" the Admiral had sent from *Me-*
" *lazzo*, would repair his Loss of
" Men, but that the Loss of his Of-
" ficers was irretrievable ; for be-
" sides many killed, a considerable
" Number of the best and principal
" were wounded, and incapable of
" present Service."

After many Propositions and Schemes started and discussed between them, without any being concluded on, the Count prayed the Admiral to stay in the Camp that Night, to be present at a Consultation of General Officers next Morning. The Conversation being ended, the Admiral went to see his Son, who (as is mentioned before) had been

been wounded in the Action, and whom he found languishing in his Tent, in a way that gave little hopes of his Recovery; not so much from the Malignity of the Wound (tho' that was in a dangerous Part) as from the Unskilfulness of those who attended him.

It may be wondered, that the Emperor is so well served in the Courage of his Troops, when so little Care is generally taken of their Preservation in Accidents of Wounds or Sicknes. Surgeons and Medicines are few and bad in their Armies, and there is little difference between being wounded and killed in Action, except that of a lingering or a sudden Death. After the Battle of *Franca Villa*, the wounded Men were laid on the Ground, with their Ammunition-Bread set by them, and left exposed to the Sun and Fortune. The General himself had only his own

Valet

Valet de Chambre to dress his Wound, and attend him. It was a moving Spectacle to the Admiral, to meet with great Numbers of poor Wretches in his way up to the Camp, some endeavouring, with the Support of their Wives or Comrades, to crawl down to the Sea-side, in order to get a Passage over to the Hospital at *Reggio*; others unable to go on from Pain or Faintness, falling down on the Earth, and left to die there. This is a great Blemish of their Service, and gives handle to the Maxim which their Enemies would fix on them, That they account it cheaper to get a Man than cure one, and so give themselves little Concern for his Recovery.

Such an universal Dejection had reigned throughout the Army on account of the ill Success of the late Action, and for the Loss or Disability of so many brave Officers; and they had such continual Apprehensions,

sions, that the fiery Temper of their General would order them on another Attack, that their Joy on the Arrival of the Admiral was inexpressible. They looked on him as their Deliverer, who alone, they thought, could extricate them from their present Difficulties and Misfortunes, and influence their General with cool and prudent Councils. In the Morning early he visited General Zumjungen, the second Person in the Army, whose sedate deliberate Temper had procured him great Esteem and Confidence among the Soldiery. " He complained much of the General's rash Impatience, in not giving time to all the Troops to come up; which if he had done, and had delayed the Attack till next Morning, they would have had the whole Day before them, have judged better of the Measures for carrying it on, which would then

“ then have been disposed in another
“ manner, and with more reasona-
“ ble Expectation of Success; and
“ that this was not his own single
“ Opinion, but that of all the other
“ Officers. He bewailed the little
“ Regard the General gave to the
“ Advice of his Officers, and en-
“ treated him to oppose any Over-
“ ture he might make, at the Con-
“ sultation, for another Attack, which
“ he feared was not out of his
“ Head, and that he (the Admiral)
“ only had Credit enough to dissuade
“ him from it.”

The principal Officers of the Army
being met in the General's Tent, the
first Point he put in question was,
Whether the Enemy should be at-
tacked again? The Officers keep-
ing a long Silence, and directing
their Looks to the Admiral; he ad-
dressed his Speech to the General,
“ wherein he reminded him of the
“ Warn-

“ Warning he had formerly given
“ him not to despise the Enemy,
“ whose Numbers and Resolution he
“ now experienced to be otherwise
“ than what he had expected ; he
“ said, that he had viewed the Situ-
“ ation of the Enemy’s Camp the
“ Night before, and though he did
“ not pretend to much Judgement in
“ the Operations of Land-Service,
“ yet it seemed to his plain Under-
“ standing, that for one Army to
“ attack another, equal in number,
“ under the shelter of strong and
“ almost impregnable Intrenchments,
“ was rather an Undertaking of De-
“ spair than Discretion, and could
“ not be attended with any reason-
“ able hopes of Success.” All the
other Officers declaring themselves of
the same Opinion, that Question was
laid aside. It came next under De-
liberation, What the Army was to
do ? The General’s Opinion was,

“ That

“ That it was insufficient for a speedy
“ Conquest of the Island, in regard
“ the Enemy had as numerous an
“ Army, with all the strong Holds
“ and Magazines in their Possession,
“ and the Affection of the People
“ on their side. That as they could
“ not continue where they were, it
“ was his Opinion, they should
“ march into the fertile Country
“ about *Catania*, and endeavour to
“ make themselves Masters of *Au-*
“ *gusta*; or else canton themselves
“ about *Syracusa* for their better Sub-
“ fistance, till new and effectual Sup-
“ plies of Troops were sent from
“ *Germany*.” To this the Admiral
replied, “ That he was so much of
“ his Opinion, that they wanted a
“ farther Reinforcement of Men,
“ that upon the first News of the
“ ill Success of the Battle, he had
“ wrote to the Viceroy of *Naples* his
“ Sentiments accordingly; that in-
“ deed

“ deed the Courts of *London* and
“ *Paris* did earnestly press the carry-
“ ing on the Enterprise against *Sar-*
“ *dinia*; but when they should come
“ to be informed of the State of
“ Affairs, they would probably con-
“ sent to have the Army, designed
“ for that Expedition, pass first into
“ *Sicily*, which, as things stood, he
“ thought the nearest way to the
“ Conquest of both Islands. That
“ after his Departure from them, he
“ would immediately go to *Naples*,
“ and labour that Point with the
“ proper Courts, with all the Ear-
“ nestness and Application possible.
“ That as to their marching in the
“ mean time into the Country about
“ *Catania* for Subsistence, he appre-
“ hended, it would give the World
“ a worse Opinion of the late Ac-
“ tion than it deserved, and make
“ it be concluded, that they had been
“ defeated and disabled; which would
“ blemish

“ blemish the Credit of their Arms,
“ and give too much Spirit to the
“ Enemy, and to the *Sicilians* in
“ their Interest. That being now
“ joined by the Recruits he had sent
“ them, and the Battalions from *Sy-*
“ *racusa* being daily expected, they
“ would be in a condition to act
“ offensively, and advance the Em-
“ peror’s Affairs; that *Augusta* was
“ out of the way, and not worth
“ their Attention; and delaying their
“ time there was drawing the War
“ into unnecessary Length; but that
“ the way lay open to *Messina*, the
“ besieging of which City would
“ support the Character of their
“ Arms, and the taking it make the
“ Reduction of the rest of the Island
“ easy. That as to what regarded
“ the Fleet, the Experience of the
“ last Winter, in keeping two Squa-
“ drons, one within, the other with-
“ out the *Fare*, to block up the
“ Ships

" Ships in *Messina*, and secure the
" Passage of the Provisions which
" the Army at *Melazzo* drew from
" *Calabria* and *Apulia*, had deter-
" mined him never to hazard again
" the Destruction of his Master's
" Ships on a Service of such evi-
" dent Danger, in that tempestuous
" Season, without having a Port to
" shelter or befriend him. That the
" Reduction of *Messina* was their
" mutual Interest, as his Ships would
" then clean there, and be more at
" hand to assist them; and the Cause
" of the Blockade being removed,
" he should be able to send a De-
" tachment to cruize on the Coasts
" of *Spain*, which would straiten
" the Enemy, and obstruct their
" sending Succours into *Sicily*." This
Remonstrance had the weight it de-
served, and not only convinced, but
gave great Satisfaction to the Gene-
ral and his Officers; especially after

I his

his removing an Objection of their being in want of Cannon for Battery, by agreeing to spare them out of the *Spanish* Prizes, 27 Cannon of Twenty-four Pounders, 12 of eighteen, and as many of twelve Pounders; with a proportionable Quantity of Powder and Ball, to enable them to begin the Siege, and promising to solicit strongly at *Naples* for remitting to the Army all things necessary for carrying on that important Service with Success.

The Conference being over, the Admiral took his Leave, the General and all the Officers expressing the greatest Esteem and Affection for him at their parting, and being escorted down to the Water-side, he embarked in the nearest Man of War, and without regard to his own Dignity of moving at the Head of a Fleet, sailed away with two Ships only, and after an impatient Passage of

of eleven Days, a time tedious to a Mind active and charged with important Affairs, he arrived at *Naples*, where the first thing he heard with great Surprize and Concern, was, that his Friend Count *Daun* was removed from the Government, and departed for *Vienna*, tho' his Time was not expired, and that Count *De Gallas* was come thither in his room. The displacing at that Juncture a Man so experienced in military Affairs, was a Step very inconvenient to the Emperor's Interest, and an unhappy Effect of Court Faction; for tho' the new Viceroy was a Man of undoubted Worth and Honour, and sustained the Character of Ambassador at the Courts of *England* and *Rome* with high Dignity and Magnificence, and in quieter times might have filled his Government with great Sufficiency and Applause, yet not being bred a Soldier, it was

not to be expected, he could so readily comprehend the Springs of Motion in Armies, or foresee every Provision necessary for Military Operations, the timely Supplies of which are the surest Foundations of Success in War.

After the first Civilities, the Admiral entering into Conference with the Viceroy, painted out to him in very lively Colours the State of the *Imperial Army in Sicily*, “ where the “ Event of things, he said, had not “ answered the sanguine Hopes they “ had flattered themselves with on “ their landing in that Island; that “ instead of trampling over the Ene- “ my, they had received such a “ Shock themselves, as very much “ humbled their Spirits and Expec- “ tations, and had been so far from “ making Impression on an Army “ favoured and assisted by the Na- “ tives, that they were reduced to
“ think

" think of their own Preservation,
" being entangled among barren
" Mountains, depending on a pre-
" carious Subsistence from the Sea,
" and in a Country where every
" Man they saw was their Enemy ;
" and finally, that without a Rein-
" forcement, equal to another Army
" the Conquest of that Kingdom
" was impracticable." The Admi-
ral having proceeded thus far, was
cautious of touching on the Army
that lay in the *Milanese* designed for
Sardinia; for by the last Letters, the
Courts of *England*, *France*, and *Tu-*
rin were still very pressing for that
Expedition; but he demanded of the
Viceroy, whether the Emperor had
any considerable number of Troops
in *Italy*, besides those designed for
Sardinia, to which he replying, he
believed not; he asked, whether, if
those Troops designed for *Sardinia*
were immediately sent over to *Sicily*,

I 3 they

they could soon be replaced by other Troops from *Germany*, to go on that Expedition, which the Viceroy doubting, he then spoke out his opinion plainly, "that the Expedition "to *Sardinia* ought to be laid aside "for the present; that the carrying "on both Undertakings together, "would end in the Failure of both, "and that the shortest way of getting both Islands, was by conquering one first." The Viceroy replied, "That the Proposition was "so much for his Master's Interest, "that his Concurrence with it was "not to be doubted, but that he "feared, he was not at liberty to "divert those Troops, without the "Consent of the other Courts in "Alliance, and prayed the Admiral "to make the proper Representations thereupon to them, as he "would do himself to the Emperor." The Conference being over, the Count

Count de Ligneville whom Count De Mercy had sent with the Admiral to Naples, was dispatched away to Vienna, with Instructions to lay before that Court the State of their Affairs in Sicily, and the Measures proposed for retrieving them.

Naples seemed to be at this time the Center of Affairs in Europe. All the Powers in the Quadruple Alliance, as well as those who had any Concerns with them, had Ministers there to watch over their respective Interests, and drew their Measures from Information of what passed there. The Admiral went from the Viceroy to visit the Marquis de Breil-le, the King of Sardinia's Minister, and shewing him the weak Condition of the Imperial Arms in Sicily, and that the Expedient of sending the Troops designed for Sardinia thither, was the Effect of invincible Necessity, and not a Pretence for Postponing

ning his Master's Interests, which the Courts of *England* and *France* had as much at heart as those of the Emperor, he convinced that Minister of the reasonableness of the Measure, who, at his request, represented the matter in a true Light to his own Court, and obtained his Master's Concurrence.

During the Admiral's Stay at *Naples*, the *Grafton* brought in two *Genoese* Ships, which she had taken off of *Palermo*, with 600 *Swiss* Recruits on board for the *Spanish* Army, who were committed Prisoners to the Castles. The *Lenox* ran a third ashore with about 200 more Soldiers, and burnt her, but most of the Men escaped.

There being nothing more to do at *Naples*, 'till the Sentiments of the several Courts were known upon the proposed Alteration of Measures, the Admiral determined in the mean time

time to pass over again into *Sicily*, hoping to find the Army before *Mes-sina*, in which Case his Assistance would be wanted. He had then a strong feverish Disorder hanging on him, which had reduced him to a very low Condition; a little Rest seemed necessary for his Recovery, but his Heart was with the Army, and his Health had no part in his Thoughts. The Viceroy too was then ill in Bed of a Fever; they were desirous of seeing each other before the Admiral departed, having some necessary Points to settle together. The Admiral scarce able to stand, was carried to the Viceroy's Bed-side, where being seated, they could do little more than give broken and imperfect Hints to each other of what their minds laboured with, and were soon obliged to put an End to a Conference, wherein the weakness of their Bodies did not second the Zeal

Zeal of their Hearts for the Publick Service. The Admiral complimented the Viceroy with as many of his Swiss Prisoners, as would be necessary to exchange what Germans were Prisoners in Sicily, and taking a final Leave of him, embarked for that Island. The Viceroy died two days after, whose Sicknes the *Italians* attributed to his travelling through the *Campania* of *Rome* in the Dog-days, which they esteem fatal. His death threw the Affairs of that Kingdom into great Confusion, the collateral Council assuming the Government, and the military Power refusing to obey their Orders, which proved no small Disservice and Retardment to the Affairs in Sicily.

During the Admiral's Absence, Count *De Mercy* being struck blind with an Apoplectick Fit, was obliged to quit the Camp, and pass over to *Reggio* for Advice, leaving the Command

Command of the Army to General Zumjungen. General *Wachtendonck* had taken by Stratagem the Town of *Taormina*, a strong Pass in the way to *Messina*, upon which Encouragement Zumjungen broke up from *Franca Villa* with his Army on the 17th *July* without any Molestation from the Enemy, and forcing the strong Passes of *Alexis* and *La Scaletta*, with less Opposition than was expected, after a painful March through a mountainous Country, and excessive heats, but assisted by the Transport Vessels coasting along with the Provisions, Artillery, and heavy Baggage, he sat down the 20th before *Messina*, in which the Enemy had 3000 Men, under the Command of the *Marquis de Spinola*, an Officer of great Reputation, and well furnished with Provisions and all necessaries for a long and obstinate Defence. In the mean time Count *Mercy*

Mercy burning with Impatience to lye Idle at *Reggio*, notwithstanding the Anguish of his Wound, and the Surgeon's not being able to get the Ball out of his Body, as soon as ever he began to see a little with one Eye, returned to the Camp before *Messina*. The Admiral after a Passage of five days anchored the 28th off of the Point of the *Fare*, and being too weak to go out of his Ship, sent his first Captain ashore to the General to acquaint him with his Proceedings at *Naples*; and learning that he was in great want of Powder, sent him a considerable Supply.

The *Imperialists* having taken the Castle of *Gonzaga*, which stands on a Hill over the City; and the Bastion of the Town, called *Secreto*, having a considerable Breach made in it, and the Governor having withdrawn his Troops from the Town into the Citadel, the Senate of *Messina* sent out Deputies

Deputies to capitulate upon Articles, but the General desiring to know, whether he was to treat with them as Subjects of the Emperor, or as Enemies; if as the former, he bid them open their Gates, and receive his Troops, and he would interpose his good Offices with the Emperor in their Favour; but if he was to treat with them as Enemies, they were to get the best Terms they could for themselves, and he gave them leave to go back into the Town to consult with their Principals about it. They returned the same Evening, and told the General, that the next Morning, as soon as it was day, they would open their Gates, and rely on the Emperor's Clemency, and accordingly the Troops marched in the 8th *August*, and took Possession.

The City being taken, the Admiral landed some *English* Grenadiers who took the Tower of the *Fare*, which

which opening a free Passage for his Ships, he came to an Anchor in Paradise-Road, which the Officers of the *Spanish* Men of War in the Mole perceiving, and despairing now of getting out to Sea, they unbent their Sails, and unrigged their Ships, expecting their Fate with that of the Citadel. This gave the Admiral great Ease, and enabled him to employ Ships on other Services, which had long attended the blocking up of that Port.

It came now to be matter of Debate, what was to be done with those Ships when the Citadel should be taken, and they fall into their hands. *Signor Scarampi*, General of the King of *Sardinia's* Gallies, first started the Question, and claimed the two best of 60 and 64 Guns, new Ships, which had belonged to his Master, and were seized by the *Spaniards* in the Port of *Palermo*. He grounded his Right on

a Convention made at Vienna 29th December 1718, in which it was said,
" that as to the Ships belonging to
" the King of *Sardinia*, if they be
" taken in Port, they shall be restor-
" ed to him ; but that this shall be re-
" ferred to Admiral *Byng* to answer."
To this the Admiral reply'd, " that
" this Convention having been only
" a Ground-work for another to be
" made at *Naples*, he could be di-
" rected by none but that which had
" been made in consequence thereof
" in April 1719, between the Vice-
" roy of *Naples*, the *Marquis de Breil-*
" le Minister of *Sardinia*, and him-
" self, in which no Mention is made
" of those Ships ; and as to the Re-
" ference to his Opinion, he did
" freely declare, he could not think
" the King of *Sardinia* had any Sha-
" dow of Title to them ; that they
" had been taken by the Enemy,
" were now fitted out and armed at
" their

“ their Expence, and under their Co-
“ lours; that they would put out to
“ Sea, if he did not hinder them, and
“ attack all *English* Ships they met
“ with, and if stronger, take them;
“ so that he could not consider them
“ in any Light than, what they were,
“ the Ships of an Enemy.” Count
De Mercy next put in his Claim for
the Emperor, alledging, “ that as
those Ships would be found with-
in the Port of a Town taken by
his Master’s Arms, according to
the Right of Nations, they be-
longed to him.” The Admiral
replied, “ that it was owing to his
keeping two Squadrons on pur-
pose, and at a great Hazard, to
watch and observe those Ships, that
they were now confined within the
Port, which if he was to with-
draw, they would still be able to
go to Sea, and he should have a
chance of meeting with and taking
“ them.”

"them." But reflecting afterwards with himself, that possibly the Garrison might capitulate for the safe Return of those Ships into *Spain*, which he was determined never to suffer; That, on the other hand, the right of Possession might breed an inconvenient Dispute among the Princes concerned, and if it should prove, that they did not belong to *England*, it were better they belonged to no Body, he proposed to Count *De Mercy* to set up a Battery, and destroy them as they lay in the Basin; who urging, that he had no Orders concerning those Ships, and must write to *Vienna* for Instructions about it, the Admiral reply'd with some Warmth, that he could not want a Power to destroy every thing that belonged to the Enemy, and insisted on it with so much firmness, that the General being concerned in Interest not to carry Matters to a disagreement, caus-

ed a Battery to be erected, notwithstanding the Protestations of Scarampi, which in a little time sunk and destroyed them, and compleated the Ruin of the naval Power of Spain.

In five days after the taking of the City, the Imperialists obliged the Castles of *Castelazzo* and *Matagriffone* to surrender, and being thus become Masters of all the Castles and Eminencies about the City, they applyed themselves to the Siege of the Citadel, where, from the Strength of the Place, the numerous and well provided Garrison, and the great Reputation of the Governor, they were sure to meet with a very warm and vigorous Resistance, and the more, as the Germans were ill provided with necessaries for such an Undertaking.

On the 13th August, the Count de Ligneville arrived in the Camp from Vienna, with the good News of

of the Emperor's having dispatched Orders to the Governor of *Milan* to send his Troops which lay in the *Milanese*, and were designed for *Sardinia*, down to *Vado*, in order to be transported into *Sicily*. He brought a gracious Letter from the Emperor to the Admiral, wherein he signified to him, * "his Approbation of a Project that was the Effect of his Zeal and Activity; the Satisfaction he had in his wise Conduct, and for his Love and Attachment to his Imperial Person and August House; and on all Occasions he should give him Marks of his Affection and Esteem, and of his good Remembrance of the Services he had done him."

The Transportation of the Troops from *Genoa* to *Sicily* was a Service of such Moment, and dispatch in it so necessary, that the Admiral deter-

* See Appendix.

mined to conduct that Affair himself, well knowing from his Experience of the Slowness of the *Germans* in all their Undertakings, how much his Weight and Credit were necessary to give their Motions that Quickness which their Affairs required; and having intimated his Resolution to Count *De Mercy* of passing over to *Naples*, and from thence to *Genoa* for that purpose, he prayed the Admiral to represent plainly his Wants to the Government of *Naples*, which no body knew or understood better than himself, and giving him a List of what Particulars he wanted, added, jocosely, "that
" as the Siege was a Child of his
" own begetting, he ought to nurse
" it, as well for his own sake, as for
" the common Interest."

The Admiral sailed the 16th of *August*, and anchored the 23d before *Naples*, where the Cardinal *De*

Schrottenbach was newly arrived by Sea from Rome, in quality of Vice-roy. The next Day the Admiral went to the Palace, and entering into Conference with the Cardinal, represented to him, “ how much the Army had suffered from the Divisions of the Government during the *Interregnum*; that the Siege they were employed in was a decisive Point, on which the Fate of the Island depended;” and setting before him the evil Consequences that would attend a Miscarriage by the want of necessary Supplies from his Government, he put into his Hand a List of Particulars he had received from the General. The Cardinal was an honest good-natur'd Man, and very willing to forward Affairs, but had no great Talents for Business. His high Quality had advanced him to the Purple, being Lord of a Principality in

Bohemia, with some Marks of Sovereignty. He was appointed to manage the Emperor's Affairs at Rome after the Departure of Count *Gallas*, and, at his Death, succeeded him in his Government. He told the Admiral, " That by the Accounts he had received from the proper Officers, there was not in the Stores the quantity of Cannon and Ammunition which the General demanded ; that he would send to *Mantua* for some Cannon, which might be transported down the Po into the Adriatick, and so on by Sea to *Messina*, where possibly, if no cross Accidents happened, they might arrive in two Months time." The Admiral coming to know, that those Cannon had no Carriages, the Cardinal thought he satisfied that Objection, by saying, " he would send some Carpenters into the Woods of *Abruzzo* to cut down

" down Timber for Carriages." These and the like unsoldierlike Proposals, gave the Admiral a sensible Regret of the Loss of Count *Daun*, in whose room he found himself co-operating with a Viceroy better qualified for his Breviary, than for Council in Operations of War, and whose Court was crowded with Monks and Priests, and such like disagreeable Objects, instead of Men of Business and Service. The Viceroy returned the next Day the Admiral's Visit, and upon reconsidering the several Points in the General's Demands, the same Difficulties recurred about complying with them, especially as to the Cannon and Ammunition. The Viceroy said, " he would summon all the General Officers in Town, and consult with them about finding out Expedients to satisfy the Wants of the Army, which was all that was in his Power to do;"

upon which the Admiral desired his Eminence, "that after they had attended him and taken those Matters into Consideration, he might have a Conference with them." Accordingly the next Day the General Officers came to the Admiral's House, and entering into Conversation together upon the Particulars of the General's Demands, which lay before them, the Articles relating to Corn and Recruits were soon got over, but the main Difficulty was the Demand of Cannon and Ammunition. The Admiral told them, "That Count *De Mercy* had not above twenty Cannon in Battery, "that he was within two hundred Paces of the Counterscarp of the Citadel, and hoped he should not be forced to stop in so fair a way, "for want of necessary Supplies; "and that he would be contented, "if they could send him but ten or twelve

" twelve Cannon from *Naples*, with
" a proportionable quantity of Pow-
" der and Ball." The Officer of
the Ordnance attending, gave in a
List of eight Cannon, which he said
might be taken from the Mole and
Batteries of the City, and sent to
Messina; but upon Enquiry, they
appeared to be of fifty and six-
ty Pounders, some without Ball,
others without Carriages, all of
them too unwieldy, and unfit for
Battery. He then delivered in to
them a State of all the Ordnance
Stores in the Kingdom, upon exa-
mining of which, the General Of-
ficers unanimously confessed, that the
whole Country was not able to fur-
nish the Cannon and Ammunition
which Count *De Mercy* wanted. This
was such a Declaration of Weakness,
as was not to be expected in so fine
a Kingdom. The Admiral now
plainly perceiving, that the Army
had

had no Ressource but what lay in himself, generously sent them twenty-four Pieces of Cannon of eighteen Pounders, belonging to the *Spanish* Prizes, and a proportionable quantity of Powder and Shot, contenting himself with the single Credit of the General for Repayment to the Captors, and at the same time wrote to *Genoa* and *Lughorn* to purchase 1000 Barrels more of Powder, engaging his own Security to the *British* Consuls for their Repayment.

During these Transactions, a number of Transports having been provided at *Naples*, the Admiral sent them under a Convoy to *Vado*, and having dispatched his other Affairs with the Cardinal, departed after them, and arrived at *Genoa* the 7th of *September*. The Town saluted his Flag with twenty-one Guns, and his Person with ten Guns and twenty Chambers, and the Republick sent off

off six Deputies, three of the old, and as many of the new Nobility, to compliment him upon his Arrival.

The Admiral had been made to believe, that by the time of his Arrival at *Genoa*, the Army would be ready to embark; but he found every thing in extreme Backwardness. The Troops had not so much as begun their March from the *Milanese*, nor could get to *Vado* in less than a Fortnight; very few Provisions or Necessaries had been bought up, and none shipped; nor were the Transport Vessels properly fitted for the Reception of the Troops. Count *De Bonneval*, who was to command this Body, arriving the next Day, went on board the Admiral, and with great Mortification understanding that he intended to transport his Army to *Melazzo*, and even to *Messina*, if Count *De Mercy* should think

think it necessary, and that in the mean time he wanted to send some of his Artillery before, with Powder and Ball, to enable that General to push on the Siege of the Citadel, he began in a boasting manner to tell the Admiral " that his Army " was upon an independent Establishment, and to act under his " own separate Command. That " the Project was, for him to be reinforced with Troops from Count " De Mercy, and to march from " Melazzo to reduce Palermo, and " that part of the Island; and therefore he could not spare the Artillery, which he should want on " that Service; and that as to Men, " Count De Mercy had already enough with him to take the Citadel." The Admiral replied, " That it was no part of his Intentions to enter into any Reasoning about the separate Command

" mand intended for him in *Sicily*,
" but that he was sure Count *De
Mercy* would never consent to his
" acting, much less reinforce him
" with Troops to act, on any se-
parat Service, till after the Re-
duction of the Citadel, which
" could not be effected without a
" Supply of Cannon and Ammu-
nition, and that the quickest way
" for his entering on the Execution
" of any such separate Projects, was
" to have that Service first over."

Bonneval then fell a railing at Count *Coloredo*, Governor of *Milan*, to whom he imputed all the Delays and Obstructions in this Affair; " that he could never get from him " a List of the Troops designed " to serve under him; that he took " no care about the Provisions; nor " supplied the Military Chest, the " Artillery, or any other Contingents of the Army, according to
" the

" the Regulation made by the Coun-
" cil of War at Vienna; and that
" he was resolved not to stir with-
" out his full Complement, which
" was 6500 Men." These things
greatly embarrassed the Admiral; but
the next Day the Governor having
sent his Secretary and Adjutant-Ge-
neral to the Admiral, to compliment
him upon his Arrival, they justified
every part of his Conduct, and con-
vinced the Admiral, that Count De
Bonneval had not stated things in a
fair Light: and indeed in the whole
course of this Transaction, the Go-
vernor of *Milan*, who was a Man
of Honour and Integrity, was not
wanting in any thing, that depended
on his Care and Power; but his good
Intentions were ill seconded by the
Sloth or Knavery of the Commissa-
ries, who gave the Admiral insup-
portable Trouble. After much pains,
he got two Vessels sent away under

Convoy

Convoy of a Man of War, with some Cannon and Ammunition for the Army at *Messina*; but as to the main Point, he met with great Perplexity and Vexation. He had been twelve Days soliciting their putting Provisions and Necessaries on board the Transports, that they might be ready against the Arrival of the Forces, without any the least thing being done in it. Upon complaining of which to Count *De Bonneval*, he contented himself with laying the Blame on the Commissaries, who, he said, would do what they pleased, in spite of all that he could say to them, and being appointed by the *Aulick Council of War* at *Vienna*, had no regard to his Authority or Orders. With Difficulty the Admirals got them to come to a Conference at the General's House, where laying before them a State of the several Particulars still wanting for the

the intended Embarkation, they protested, they could not get together so much Provision under fifteen Days time; but entering into a Discussion of each Particular, he plainly shewed them, that it might easily be compassed in seven. He then told them, "That as the Governor of *Milan* had assured him, that the last Column of Troops would be at *Va-* *do* the 23d, if any thing hindered their embarking the next Day, he would be trifled with no longer, but go away to *Messina*, where his Presence was wanted, and leave a Convoy to follow with the Troops; and advised them to consider seriously of the Blame they would incur from their Negligence." This brought them to promise, that all the Provisions, Ammunition, and other Necessaries should be got ready and shipped off by the time appointed for the Arriaval of the Troops.

They

They being accordingly arrived on the 23d, and the Admiral having made a Disposition to embark them, the commanding Officer sent him word, that very little of the Provisions were shipped on board the Transports, that most part of the Biscuit and Wine was wanting, that there was no Salt, Oil, Brandy and Tobacco, nor any Hay or Oats; nor could he get any clear Answer from the chief Commissary, by what time those things could be provided. The Admiral sending his First Captain to find out those Officers he concealed himself from his Sight; and indeed the whole Conduct of those Officers looked as if they designedly delayed, instead of forwarding this Service. As to Count *De Bonneval*, who had been appointed to command those Forces on the intended Expedition to *Sardinia*, he was so disgusted at his Disappoint-

L ment,

ment, and the diverting them to a different Service, and to find himself going to act under the Command of another, that he gave himself no trouble to forward the Service, but spent his whole Time in Pleasures at *Genoa*. After incredible Pains and Labour, and at last such Menaces as the Commissaries, and even *Bonneval* himself, began to be afraid of, the Admiral shipt off the Troops to the number of about 6000, on the 27th of September, with such Provisions as could be got, and leaving a Man of War to convoy the Remainder when ready, sailed the 28th from *Vado*, but it blowing very fresh the 29th in the Night, the Sarrees and Tartans with about 600 Men on board, and some Horses and Baggage, parted from the Fleet, and stood in with the Shore for Shelter. The Admiral receiving Letters, in his Passage, from Count

Count *De Mercy*, requesting, that the Troops might not land at *Melazzo*, but go on to *Messina*, he stood away for the *Fare*, and arrived before *Messina* the 8th of October, which so elevated the Spirits of the Army, that upon the first sight of the Fleet, Lieutenant-General *Wallis* with 5000 Men made a vigorous Attack upon the Half-Moon which was nearest to their Approaches, and carried it but with the Loss of 103 killed, and 830 wounded. The Admiral repairing ashore to the General's Quarters, was embraced by him and all the General Officers with the most tender Marks of Affection and Gratulation, the whole Army being overjoy'd to see a Man who always brought them Relief and Success, and every Good that attended them. On the 17th, at ten in the Morning, the *Imperialists* assaulted the Counter-Guard, and mounted to the

top of the Breach with great Gallantry, but, after two Hours very warm work, were repulsed with the Loss of 120 Men killed, and 617 wounded. The Governor having acquitted himself with great Honour in this Repulse, as well as in the general Defence of the Place, and finding himself unable to hold it longer, beat a Parley the next day, and surrendered upon Articles. On the 19th 600 Imperial Grenadiers marched in, and took Possession of a Gate of the Citadel. On the 21st the Spanish Garrison, marched out through the Breach, and were transpored by Sea to *Augusta*. Thus ended a Siège of 91 days, which cost the Germans above 5000 Men killed or wounded.

Count *de Bonneval* finding his Troops incorporated with the Army, and his Projects of a separate Command vanished, pretended Sickness, and

and getting leave to go to *Reggio* for Advice, he repaired to *Vienna*, and returned no more to the Army. He was a Native of *France*, and had all the Sprightliness and Levity of that Nation. He was a gallant Officer, had received many Wounds, and still feels the painful Remembrance of a most terrible one he got in *Hungary*. He had no Zeal for the Service of his Prince, any farther than it suited his own Interest or Ambition, to which he willingly sacrificed his Duty. While the Admiral gave himself incredible Pains at *Genoa* and *Vado* to quicken the Departure of the Army, he was thought to throw in the Way all the secret Obstructions he could, 'till he knew the Issue of the Solicitations he was carrying on at *Vienna*, to be continued in a separate Command.

Whilst the Siege of the Citadel was depending, the *Spanish* Army decamped from *Franca Villa* 31st *August*, and

marching towards Rametta, the Marquis de Lede gave out, that he would attack the Imperialists, and appeared upon the Hills in sight of the Camp, attended by a great Number of Peasants he had drawn together, but finding it well guarded, and his Army being sickly, he fortified a strong and advantagious Post at Castro Giovane in the Center of the Island, where he laid in large Magazines, in order to retire thither in case of Necessity, and in the mean time cantoned his Troops about Aderno, Paterno, and Catania.

It was during this Siege, that the Admiral, having received Information, that Vessels belonging to Malta had gone to Sea with Spanish Commissions, and taken some English Merchant Ships, sent a Letter to the Grand Master, "complaining
" of his Partiality and Injustice, de-
" manding Satisfaction for the Da-
" mages

"mages the Merchants had sustain-
ed, and his giving strict Orders to
prohibit the like unfair Proceed-
ings for the future." He wrote
at the same time to Mr. *Alexander Young*, the English Consul at *Malta*,
to make a strict Enquiry what Mer-
chant Ships had been taken by Pri-
vatiers fitted out from *Malta*, or where-
in *Maltese* Subjects had been con-
cerned, and to lay a State thereof
before that Government, with a De-
mand of Reparation, and to let him
know their Answer. The Grand
Master and his Council being alarm-
ed at this Message, sent the Cheva-
lier *Balbini* to the Admiral, to repre-
sent and excuse the Proceedings of
their Government in the Points com-
plained of, and to lay before him the
Difficulties they were under from their
Dependance on *Spain*, and to endea-
vour to remove all Causes of his Dis-
satisfaction with them. But the Ad-

miral not having yet received any specifick Account of the particular Losses of the Merchants, and so not able himself to settle the Terms of Restitution with *Balbini*, sent his first Captain (*Saunders*) with two Men of War to *Malta*, directing him " to make an exact Enquiry into the several Captures that had been made, and to lay the same before the Grand Master and his Council, and to demand Reparation, so far as their Subjects had been concerned therein; and in Case he found them willing to give reasonable Assurances of doing Justice for what was past, and of a better Behaviour for the future, he was to enter into a Convention with them for that purpose, and for establishing a good Agreement with them; but otherwise, he was to take all Ships and Vessels he should meet with belonging to that Island."

Captain

Captain *Saunders* arriving at *Malta*, found a fair disposition in those People to give the Admiral and the *English* Nation all reasonable Satisfaction in their Proceedings. They shewed,
“ that they had never consented to,
“ or approved of their Subjects en-
“ tring into the Service of *Spain*, but
“ had issued strict Proclamations pro-
“ hibiting them to be any ways con-
“ cerned on either Side, in the War.
“ They did not deny, that one of
“ their Vessels had taken a Commis-
“ sion from the *Marquis de Lede*, to
“ cruize upon the Enemies of *Spain*,
“ but made appear, that they had
“ sent one of their Order to entreat
“ him to revoke that Commission,
“ and had made the same Applica-
“ tion to the Court at *Madrid*, but
“ had been answered with great
“ Roughness and Menaces. That to
“ avoid as much as they could all
“ Occasions of Complaint, they had
“ called

Expedition to SICILY.

“ called in all their Privatiers which
“ had been cruizing in the *Levant*
“ against the *Turks*, in order to dis-
“ arm them ; but that they could
“ not always govern the Unruliness
“ of their People, when they would
“ enter into the Service of any Chri-
“ stian Prince, whose Colours pro-
“ tected them from their Enquiry
“ or Visitation, which was the Mis-
“ fortune of their Constitution, as
“ they depended upon the Christian
“ Princes of *Europe* for their Reve-
“ nue, and in particular drew at that
“ time their daily Sustenance of Pro-
“ visions from that part of *Sicily*,
“ which was under the Subjection
“ of the *Spanish* General ; and final-
“ ly, that they had received no part
“ or benefit from the Prizes, which
“ passed entirely thro' the hands of
“ the *Spanish* Agent, and in which
“ they had no manner of Interest or
“ Concern.” The Captain was con-
vinced

vinced of the Sincerity and Truth of their Declaration, but on the other hand told them, "that it was not his business to enquire into the Nature or Dependance of their Government, and it was for them to accommodate their Grievances with Spain as they could. That his Instructions were plain, and founded in Justice, demanding Redress for the Losses his Countrymen had sustained, from those who occasioned them, who were their Subjects; and that if they would not enter into a Negociation for that purpose, he should be obliged to put his Orders in Execution." Intimidated by these Threats, they immediately appointed two Commissioners to treat with him; and it being made out by Proof, that five English Merchant Ships had been taken by Maltese Ships under Spanish Colours, they submitted to pay the full Value

Value of them and their lading, within twelve Months after Application from the Claimants. But thinking themselves aggrieved by this Treaty, and protesting themselves to be under a Force to sign any Terms, rather than feel the Effects of the Admiral's Displeasure, they reserved to themselves a Liberty of appealing to the Equity of the Admiral, and from him to the King, for a mitigation of the Severity of the Conditions. They dispatched away accordingly the Chevalier *de la Val* to the Admiral, who not thinking he had any Right to compound for other Men's Properties, the Deputy passed on to the English Court at *London*, to execute his Commission. He had likewise a private Instruction, to implore the King's Interest with the several Princes at the approaching Congress, that *Malta* might be freed from it's Subjection to *Sicily*, and enjoy the Rights and

and Privileges of a free and neutral Port, in time of War, among the Christian Powers.

The *Imperialists* having spent some time in levelling the Lines, Trenches, and Batteries before *Messina*, and in putting the Place into a Posture of Defence, they held several Consultations, at which the Admiral assisted, concerning what Measures were next to be taken. The Reduction of *Messina* had brought *Val Demona* under the Obedience of the Emperor, but the whole Province being mountainous and barren, was so little able to supply the Army with Provisions and Forrage, that the Inhabitants of *Messina*, and other Towns, daily petitioned the General for their own Subsistence, since they could draw no Corn, as they used to do, from the plentiful Parts of the Island, which were in the Possession of the *Spaniards*. To march after the Enemy

my in a wintry Season, with their Horse already harrassed, and almost starved, through an adverse Country, and without any Provisions but what they carried ; and, if they surmounted all these difficulties, to attack them in the strong Camp of *Castro Giovane*, was judged too rash to be attempted, after the Experience of *Franca Villa*. To march to *Palermo*, and get Possession of the Capital, was more desirable, than easy of Execution. It was a March of seventeen days, along the Northern Coast of the Island, through an unknown, mountainous, steril Country, where they should be exposed to sudden Insults, great part of the Way being so narrow, that two Men could hardly go abreast ; and if they met with no Enemy, they had no Forrage for their Horse, no Magazines in the way of their March, nor a sufficient Number of Beasts of burthen to carry

ry Provisions along with them, nor Money to buy them, if they could be got. The next Project that occurred, was to go to *Trapani*, where the *Piedmontese* had a Garrison. This would be changing the Scene of the War to great Advantage, for instead of being confined and famished in the Mountains, they should be able to enlarge themselves in a plentiful Country, and by acting on equal Terms with the Enemy, have a reasonable Chance to drive them out of the Island. But to go thither by Land was impracticable, and as their Transport Vessels could not carry above a third Part of the Army at a time, the Division of their Troops was hazardous, and might be fatal. For *Trapani* being situated on an *Isthmus*, and having no Magazines of Corn, the *Marquis de Lede* might march, and pen up the first Detachment, within that narrow Neck
of

of Land, where they would starve for want of Provisions, before the rest of the Army could join them. The only Choice remaining was to go to *Syracusa*, but that too was impracticable by Land, by reason of the same Objections as are already mentioned ; and besides, there lay in the Way several deep and rapid Rivers, where the Enemy might defend the Passages with great Advantage : And though it was not difficult to transport the Army thither by Sea, yet it was an uncomfortable Reflection, that they should be then the whole length of the Island distant from *Palermo*, and could only propose to subsist themselves from day to day during the Winter, the Enemy lying between them and the great *Caricatori* or Subterraneous Magazines, where the Inhabitants usually lay up their Corn, which were 90 Miles distant. With these disagreeable

able Prospects they past away some days under Incertainty what to do ; when one Evening the Generals *Merry* and *Zumjungen* repairing on Board the Admiral, and renewing the Subject of their late Conferences, they told him in a very desponding manner, " that having thoroughly weighed the Situation of their Affairs, " and finding they could neither subsist, nor undertake any Action where they were, they had come to a Resolution to leave a strong Garrison in *Messina*, and to transport the Horse over by Sea to *Calabria*, and the Foot to *Syracusa*, where they might be able to maintain themselves during the Winter, and be ready to make use of such Advantages as might offer for acting against the Enemy in the Spring ; and prayed his Assistance in that Service. The Admiral replied, that he hoped,

“ their Affairs were not so desperate,
“ as they apprehended; that he had
“ been employing his Thoughts for
“ their Service, and believed, he
“ should be able to extricate them out
“ of their present Circumstances:
“ That, of all the late Propositions,
“ the transporting the Army to *Trapani* pleased him best, as it would
“ turn the difficulty upon the *Spanish*
“ Army, by obliging them to make
“ uneasy Marches, and to keep the
“ Field in the Winter. That when
“ the whole Army was at *Trapani*,
“ they should be able to enlarge their
“ Quarters, the Granaries of Corn
“ would fall into their hands, and
“ their Neighbourhood to *Palermo*
“ keep that Place in awe, 'till the
“ Season should favour their march-
“ ing towards it, the Reduction of
“ which would bring the War to a
“ speedy Issue. That he had con-
“ sidered of the difficulty of subsist-
“ ing

“ ing one part of the Army at *Trapani*, ‘till the rest arrived ; and, “ as *England* was in Peace with the “ Governments of *Barbary*, he would “ send his Secretary to *Tunis*, which “ was the nearest *African* Port to “ *Trapani*, and employ him and the “ *English* Consul to buy up whatever “ Quantity of Corn was necessary, “ and transport the same to *Trapani*. “ That he knew very well they had “ no Money, and therefore would “ employ his own Cash and Credit “ to procure this Supply, depend- “ ing upon their honour for Repay- “ ment, and did not doubt to lodge “ the Corn at *Trapani*, before the “ first Detachment of Troops arriv- “ ed there.” Count *De Mercy* pene- “ trating immediately into the Facility “ and advantagious Consequences of “ this Scheme, rose up, and embrac- “ ing the Admiral in a kind of Tran- “ sport, acknowledged “ that he had

“ hit on the only Method practicable, not only for the Preservation of the Army, but even for pushing on the War with Success. That as it was a Protestant Scheme, he should have Protestant Troops, and Protestant Generals to put it in Execution;” and accordingly General Zumjungen, with Count Secendorf, the Prince of Hesse, and General Schmettau embarked the 23d November with 7000 Foot and 500 Horse, and arrived fortunately in three days at Trapani, where finding a plentiful Remittance of Corn ready arrived from Tunis, they not only posted themselves there in Security, but enlarging their Quarters into the Country, brought the Cities of Marsala and Mazzara to submit to the Obedience of the Emperor. The Transports and Convoy returning, brought thither more Troops. Count De Mercy and the Admiral departing with the last Convoy

voy from *Messina* on the 19th *January*, consisting of 5400 Foot and 1100 Horse, they were overtaken by a violent Storm off of the Isle of *Alicudi*, which drove all the Transports into *Melazzo*, and *Messina*, the Admiral, with the General on Board his Ship, getting with difficulty to *Trapani* on the 29th, but the whole Convoy did not arrive there 'till the 2d *March*, many Soldiers dying in the Passage, and amongst them General *Wachter-donck*, regretted by every Body. The whole Army being got together amounted to 14000 Foot and 3000 Horse, besides the Garrisons left in *Messina*, *Melazzo*, *Syracusa*, and the adjacent Ports.

These Motions of the *Imperialists* made the Marquis *de Lede* quit the Posts of *Mola*, *Taormina* and *Catania*, and leaving a Detachment in his strong Camp at *Castro Giovane*, to secure the Magazines he had erected there, he

M , marched

marched and fixed his Camp from *Alcamo* to *Salama*, with his head Quarters at *Castel Vetrano*, from whence he continually sent out Detachments to destroy the Country about *Marsala* and *Mazzara*, and to carry off all the Cattle, Grain and Wine, which Zumjungen could not at first prevent; but being strengthened with new Supplies by Sea, he at last obliged their Parties to retire, and on the Arrival of Count *De Mercy*, the Spanish General was reduced to fortify his Camp with strong Entrenchments and Redoubts, with Batteries of Cannon.

Count *De Mercy* making a Motion of extending his Quarters beyond *Mazzara*, the Marquis *de Lede* quitted *Castel Vetrano*, and retired with his Army to *Alcamo*, from whence he sent his Mareschal *de Camp Signor d'Aponte*, on the 6th of February with Overtures to Count *De Mercy* and the Admiral

Admiral for evacuating *Sicily*, on Condition of Leave to transport his Army into *Spain*, and in Order thereto, desiring a Suspension of Arms. This Proposition contained nothing disagreeable to the *Germans*, who would thereby obtain all they wanted, by becoming Masters of the Kingdom without any farther Trouble; but the Admiral protesting against it, and declaring that not a Man of the *Spanish* Army should pass out of that Island, until a general Peace was made, for that it would be to furnish *Spain* with a Body of their best Troops to strengthen their Army acting against *France*, or else they might be employed in disturbing *England*, he was dismissed with this Counter Proposal from the Count *De Mercy*, that if the Marquis would surrender *Palermo*, and the South-side of the Island, and retire with his Army into the middle of the Country towards

Castro Giovane, or to any other Pass proper for his Security, he would consent to a Suspension of Arms for six weeks, 'till the Sentiments of the several Courts might be known; which being an Advantage more than equivalent to the Operations of six weeks in that early Season, the Admiral consented thereto, with this Restriction, that if the Spaniards attempted to withdraw any of their Men in the mean time, the Suspension should be void, and he would act against them with all his Force. Count De *Mercy* dispatching Lieutenant Colonel *Bellaire* to *Vienna*, to acquaint that Court with these Overtures, and to bring back their Directions, the Admiral sent away thither his eldest Son Mr. *Byng*, with Instructions, that if the Imperial Court listned to the Proposals of the Spanish General, to declare, that his Father could never suffer any Part of the Spanish Army to de-
part

part out of the Island, till the King of Spain had acceded to the Quadruple Alliance, or till he received positive Instructions from England for doing so.

The 12th February Count De Mer-
cy marched towards *Castel Petrano*,
for the more commodious Subsistence
of his Cavalry, from whence he de-
tached General Seckendorf with 1500
Men and some Cannon, to reduce
Saccà, where there was a large Cari-
catoe of Corn. The Town im-
mediately surrendered, but the Spa-
niards, to the Number of 300, re-
tired into the Castle.

The Marquis De Lede finding his first Propositions ineffectual, sent two General-Officers, the Marquis De San Vincenzo, and Signior D'Aponte, to the Imperial Camp the 19th of February, with Instructions to treat about the Surrender of *Palermo* and a consider-
able part of the adjacent Country,
in consideration of a Suspension of
Arms

Arms for three Months; but whilst the Negotiation was depending, the Marquis receiving an Express from *Madrid* on the 28th with Advice, that a general Peace was made, he sent immediately to break off the Treaty. This seemed Matter of great Surprize; but the secret Reason was, that *Spain* was at that time treating with *France* to restore *Fontarabia*, *St. Sebastian*, and other Places taken in the War, and hoped to get in exchange, for the Evacuation of *Sicily* and *Sardinia*, the Restitution of those Towns, and of *Gibraltar*; or, at least, to have both the one and the other referred to a Congress. Upon this, Count *De Mercy* gave fresh Orders for attacking the Castle of *Sacca*, which had been retarded by the great Rains. The Castle being batter'd with four Pieces of Cannon, and not very strong, surrender'd the 6th of *March*, the Garrison being made Pri-

Prisoners of War. The taking this Place gave great Relief to the *Imperial Army*, who found there 20000 Solms of Wheat.

During these Transactions, a Courier dispatched from *Paris* by the Earl of *Stair* the *British Ambassador* there, brought the Admiral Information, that the Marquis *De Beretti Landi*, the *Spanish Minister* at the *Hague*, had signed the Quadruple Alliance the 17th of *February*; and he brought likewise a Packet from that Minister to the Marquis *De Lede*, and another from the Emperor's Minister to Count *De Mercy*, to acquaint them therewith. A Trumpet was sent with the *Spanish Minister's* Packet to the Marquis *De Lede*, and to know his Sentiments thereupon. He returned Answer, "That his Master's Minister having signed the Quadruple Alliance, he looked upon the Peace as a thing concluded, and was

" there-

“ therefore ready to treat of a Cessa-
“ tion of Hostilities by Sea and Land,
“ until they should receive farther Or-
“ ders from their respective Courts.”

To this it was replied, by the Ad-
miral and Count De Mercy, “ That
“ as the Evacuation of *Sicily* and
“ *Sardinia* was to be performed with-
“ in two Months after the said Sign-
“ ing, they were ready to consent
“ to a Suspension of Arms, upon
“ his delivering up the City and
“ Castles of *Palermo*, at which Place
“ Transports would be best provi-
“ ded, and other necessary Measures
“ concerted for the Transportation
“ of their Army into *Spain*.” The
Marquis returned Answer, “ That as
“ he understood, the Plenipotentia-
“ ries of their Masters at the *Hague*
“ were in Treaty for settling the
“ Terms of evacuating those Islands,
“ he did not think himself autho-
“ rized to agree to a Cessation on
“ any

any other Condition, than that
each Party should remain on the
Ground they occupied, and expect
farther Orders from their respective
Principals."

The Disadvantages arising from such an Agreement were too obvious to be submitted to; for the Men of War and Transports lay very inconveniently at *Trapani*, an unsafe Road, where they had sustained considerable Damage, and some of the Transports had been lost; it was therefore necessary to have *Palermo*, as a secure Retreat for the Fleet, and the most commodious Port for shipping off the Troops; besides it was a Pledge of the Sincerity of the Intentions of Spain to evacuate the Island. In the next place, it put the Germans under a manifest Inequality to be confined to the Ground they occupied, while the Spaniards were in possession of the principal *Caricatori* of Corn,

Corn, and plundered and rifled at pleasure a Country they were soon to leave. Nor could they comprehend, how an Enemy, who six Weeks before, offered to leave the whole Island, on condition of being sent back into *Spain*, should now scruple to surrender *Palermo*; and therefore as it had the Appearance of Chicaning, they resolved to go on with the Operations of the War. But before they proceeded to Action, they agreed to send a joint Letter to the Marquis, proposing an Interview between them at the Cassine *De Rossignola*, half way between the two Armies, where accordingly they met the 2d of *April* at Noon, with an Escorte of 200 Horse on each side. In the Conference the Marquis *De Lede* owned, " That " he knew the King his Master had " signed the Quadruple Alliance, " and did not doubt of his Inten- " tion

“tion to evacuate Sicily; but declared, he had no Orders yet about it; that he expected full Powers and Instructions soon, and wished they would, in the mean time, come to a Cessation of Arms.”

He was asked, “What Proposals he had to make for that purpose?”

He answered “None, but that both Armies might hold the Country that was in their Possession, until he received Orders to treat about the Evacuation.” Count *De Mercy*

thinking it unreasonable to be ty’d down to a small Tract of Country where he could not subsist, asked him, “whether in case they should consent to his keeping Possession of Palermo, he had Power to deliver up Augusta, and the other Posts they held on that side of the Island, which were now of no use to him, but it would be rather a Conveniency to him to draw

“ draw away the Garrisons and
“ Troops he had in those Parts, to
“ join his Army, in order to the in-
“ tended Evacuation ?” He confes-
“ sed, “ he could not give up, nor
“ quit the Possession of any Part he
“ had of the Island, until he recei-
“ ved farther Orders from his Ma-
“ ster,” and read part of his Instruc-
“ tions to them. Count *De Merfy* on
the other side, shewed him part of
the Emperor’s Orders, which directed
him “ to agree to a Suspension
“ of Arms in order to the Evacua-
“ tion of *Sicily* and *Sardinia*; and to
“ concert with the Marquis *De Lede*
“ the necessary Conditions for faci-
“ litating the same, and to adjust that
“ Affair by all reasonable Measures:
“ But that, if the Marquis *De Lede*
“ should not own his having Orders,
“ or endeavour to evade them and
“ gain time, by pretending to send
“ to *Madrid* for farther Instructions,
“ and

" and not name a reasonable time
" for beginning to embark part of
" his Troops, in that Case, he was
" to make use of his Arms to oblige
" him to execute the Treaty, which
" the *Spanish* Minister had signed at
" the *Hague*." He farther told the
Marquis, that the 17th of *April* was
understood to be the time they should
go upon the Evacuation, but if it
was not possible for him to begin so
soon, he would not differ about a few
Days, provided they entred now in-
to some Agreement about the man-
ner of doing it. He offered him
the Transports he had in his Service,
and assured him, that he should be
accommodated with Provisions and
every thing he could in reason demand.
The Admiral, on his Part, gave him
the like Assurances; and that he should
be escorted by as many of his Master's
Ships, as he should desire. The
Marquis owned, that all they said was

N reasonable,

reasonable, but complaining of the want of Orders, the Conference broke off without coming to any Issue. At parting, the Marquis prayed the Admiral to release the Bishop of *Mazza-ra*, who was his Prisoner, which the Admiral readily consented to.

During these Debates, one of the English Ships cruizing off *Palermo*, took a *Felucca*, sent by Cardinal *Aqua-viva* from *Rome*, with Packets of Letters from *Spain* to the Marquis *de Lede*, which he delivered to the Admiral; who seeing the King of *Spain's* Seal to the Letters, generously sent them unopened to the Marquis, and set the *Felucca* and Crew at Liberty.

The Conference being broke off, the Admiral returned to the Fleet at *Trapani*, and Count *de Mercy* resolving to attack the *Spaniards*, marched towards *Alcamo*, where he arrived the 8th *April*, the Marquis having retreated the Night before with Precipitation,

tion, leaving some sick Men behind, whom he could not carry away. The Marquis encamped at *Valguernera* and *Sala di Partenico*, but fearing to be followed by the *Imperialists*, he retired on to *Monreale*. The Retreat of the *Spaniards* made Count *De Mercy* resolve on the Siege of *Palermo*, in order to which he sent Colonel Baron *Neyperg* to confer with the Admiral about the necessary Assistance to be given by the Fleet in facilitating the March of the Army towards that Place, by coasting along with the Provisions and Necessaries they should want in their March, as well as in the Siege, and supplying them with Cannon and Ammunition for that Enterprize. The necessary Dispositions being concert-ed between the Army and the Fleet, the Count decamped from *Alcamo* the 18th *April*, and followed the Marquis *de Lede*, who retreating to-wards *Monreale*, kept Possession of

that and other advantagious Posts, which led into the Plain before *Palermo*, fortifying at the same time a strong Pass by the Sea-side called *Sferra Cavallo*, which was another way between the Sea-Shore and the Mountains, into the same Plain. Count *De Mercy* being arrived at *Sala di Partenico*, and not judging it adviseable to attempt the Passes which the Enemy possessed on the Road of *Monreale*, he divided his Army into two Bodies, sending General *Zumjungen* with all his Cavalry (except the Hussars and a Regiment of Dragoons) and seven Battalions of Foot, with the Artillery and Baggage, to the Sea-side, with Orders to force the Pass of *Sferra Cavallo*, and enter that Way into the Plain of *Palermo*, whilst he himself with the rest of the Army ascended the difficult Mountains about *Carini*, in order to get down that Way into the same Plain, judging, that if the

the Marquis drew his Army to defend the Pass of *Sferra Cavallo*, he should get between him and *Palermo*, or at least, have the Advantage of falling upon his Rear. The Count having gained the heights of the Mountains, from whence are discovered the Plain and City of *Palermo*, perceived the *Spanish* Army encamped in the Bottom, intending to obstruct his Descent, and occupying all the Passes in the Way. Here Count *De Mercy* sent to *Zumjungen* to rejoin him, which he did by the Assistance of Guides provided by the Magistrates of *Carini*, leaving a Detachment under the Command of Colonel Baron *de Witgenau* to convoy the Artillery and Baggage by the Way of the Seaside, who arriving at the Pass of *Sferra Cavallo*, found it abandoned by the *Spaniards*. On the 21st the *Germans* began to descend from the Mountains, and forcing the several

Passes with less Opposition than was expected, were almost all got down before Night to the bottom. The whole was a most difficult and fatiguing March, through Ways that the Inhabitants themselves had rarely practised, but which the Count surmounted with great Expedition and Military Judgement.

The Admiral coasting along, in Conformity to the Motions of the Army, came to an Anchor with the Fleet the 20th in *Mondello* Bay, and sent some of his Soldiers to take Possession of a Tower on the Point, and another at the landing Place, as also three Caßines that stood between, in order to preserve their Communication.

On the 22d the Marquis *de Lede* sent Colonel *Lacy*, his *Aid de Camp*, with a Letter to the Admiral, inclosing a *Spanish Gazette*, wherein was published the Treaty of Suspension
of

of Arms at Sea, concluded at the Hague between the Ministers of *Great Britain, France and Spain*, and which was to take Place on the 10th Instant, and therefore he proposed to the Admiral, "to come to an Agreement with him for a separate Cessation of Hostilities, as they had both full Powers for that purpose; and protested against any Violences he should commit, contrary to the plain Instructions of their Sovereigns." This Snare laid to separate the Admiral from the German Army, had no Effect, the Admiral returning Answer, "that he could give no Regard or Credit to a pretended Convention published in a Foreign News Paper, and even in which there was a Clause, that nothing in it should derogate from what should be agreed between him and the Marquis, for what concerns the *Mediterranean*"

“ terranean Sea. That as the Spanish Minister had signed the Quadruple Alliance ever since the 17th February last, it was surprizing, that in all this time the Marquis had received no Orders for treating about the Evacuation of the Island, which was the necessary Consequence of it, but that he still maintained every Point and Post with the same Zeal and Ardor, as before his Master’s Accession to the Alliance. That the time for beginning the Evacuation was elapsed ; and therefore, without some reasonable Security that he really intended it, he could come into no Agreement for a Suspension of Arms ; but whenever he should be empowered to treat for both, he would most gladly go more than half way to meet him, and not only agree on such Measures as might put an End to the present

" present Differences, but which
" might restore and cultivate a good
" Understanding between both Na-
" tions, which no Body more ar-
" dently wished for, than he did."

This was an adventurous Proceeding in the Admiral; for his Instructions from *England* directed him to come to a Suspension of Arms with *Spain*, without staying for settling the Terms of Evacuation, which might take up time. But his Penetration shewed him, that if a Suspension took Place at Sea, the *Spaniards* might introduce what Succours and Troops they pleased into the Island, which would unravel all they had been doing, and if any Interruption happened in the Negotiations on foot, put the *Spaniards* in a better State of prosecuting the War, and perhaps protract it another Year. Their late Conduct had made him jealous of their Artifices, seeing them lay hold
of

of every Advantage to evade the Evacuation of the Island, which this Separation would encourage, and render the way to Peace more distant and difficult. He determined therefore, as the Convention for a Cessation of Arms at Sea, signed at the *Hague* the 29th *February*, left him a Liberty of treating as he thought proper, to remain united to the *Germans*, which he prudently saw, was the quickest Way to bring the *Spaniards* to a Compliance, and to come into real Measures for the Evacuation of the Island. The Event justified his Precaution, and his Conduct received at home the Approbation it deserved.

The March of the *Imperialists* had made the *Spaniards* change the Situation of their Camp, which they pitched across the Plain before *Palermo*, extending their left to *Monte Caputo*, and their Right to the Sea near the

the Mole of *Palermo*, the whole Army being under the Cannon of that City, and having strong Entrenchments before them, lined with 40 pieces of Cannon. They were provided with Plenty of all things, and seemed determined to stand the Fate of a Battle. The *Germans* encamped on the same Plain in the Front of the Enemy, and within a Mile and a half distance, with their Right at the foot of the Mountains from whence they had descended, and their Left reaching to *Monte Pelegrino* near the Sea-side, the Artillery and Baggage being arrived in their Camp by the way of *Sferra Cavallo*. Count *De Mercy* seeing himself straitened in Room, and under difficulty of subsisting, whilst the Enemy plundered and enriched themselves with the Spoils of a Country they were quickly to abandon, he determined to bring Matters to an Engagement as soon as possible.

possible. In Order to it, his Scheme was to endeavour to get Possession of the Mole, by which means he should flank the Enemy, and oblige them either to come to a Battle with disadvantage, or else to retire to *Termini*. For this purpose he detached Baron *Neyperg* on the 26th with six Companies of Grenadiers to dislodge the Enemy from some Posts which they had fortified on the Sea-side; and to facilitate the same, sent Baron *de Witgenau* with six other Companies of Grenadiers to seize on *Monte Pelegrino*. At the same time the Admiral detaching three Ships, to cannonade the Posts on the Sea-side, their Fire made the *Spaniards* abandon them, and the *Imperialists* took Possession of them without any Loss. These Advantages confirmed Count *De Mercy* in his Resolution to push his point that way, and having made the necessary dispositions, the next day

day he caused to be attacked a Cassine that stood a little distance from the Enemy's Trenches, but strongly fortified with Lines and some Cannon, drawing out his whole Army at the same time in order of Battle, in case the Enemy should come out of their Camp to support it. The Lines were soon taken, but the Cassine was not carried 'till after a very vigorous Defence of above an Hour, wherein the *Germans* had about 140 Men killed or wounded, among the former a Prince of *Anhalt*, and Lieutenant General *Seckendorf* wounded in the Shoulders. On the 2d *May*, about two in the Afternoon, the Weather being very hot, and the *Spanish* Guard taking a *Siesto*, according to the Custom of that Nation, the *Germans* surprized a Redoubt near the Enemy's Lines, entring the same without firing a Shot, and pushing the *Spaniards* out with their Bayonets

nets in their pieces. The Marquis *de Lede* being informed of it, rose from Table, and ordered the Army to be immediately drawn out, in order to retake that Fortification, which commanded the whole Line of the Camp. On the other Hand, Count *De Mercy* being determined to maintain his hold, both Armies were in Motion and just on the Point of Engaging, when fortunately a Courier arriving in the very Instant from *Spain* in a *Felucca*, delivered to the Marquis a Packet, containing full Powers from the King of *Spain* to treat and agree about the Evacuation of the Islands of *Sicily* and *Sardinia*, and the Transportation of the Army into *Spain*. The Marquis upon this drew off his Army, and sent Letters by a Trumpet to the General and Admiral, to inform them of his Orders. The next Morning early, the Admiral repairing to the *German* Camp, Officers

cers were appointed on each Side to treat of the Suspension of Arms, and to regulate the manner of Evacuating both Islands; and Conventions were drawn up for that purpose, and signed, that for *Sicily* on the 6th *May*, and that for *Sardinia* two days after.

In pursuance of these Conventions, the *Germans* were put in Possession of *Palermo* and the Citadel of *Castel-amare* the 10th, and the *Spanish Army* marched to *Termini*, a Sea-Port, about 25 Miles distant, from whence the first Embarkation consisting of about 12000 Foot and 600 Horse, sailed the 20th *June* for *Barcelona*; and the Remainder arrived at the same Place the 25th *August* following.

Nothing now remained to be done, but to put the Duke of *Savoy* in Possession of the Island of *Sardinia*; in order to which four Battalions of *Piedmontese Troops* embarked

barked at *Palermo* under the Command of Baron *St. Remi*, and sailed under the Convoy of some *English* Men of War to *Cagliari*, where the Admiral arriving so soon as he had settled all Affairs in *Sicily*, he assisted at the Conferences, with the Ministers and Generals of the several Powers concerned, wherein was regulated the Manner of surrendering the Island by the *Spanish* Viceroy to the Emperor, and the Cession of the same from the Emperor to the Duke of *Savoy*; and, at the Instance of this Prince, the Admiral did not depart, till he had seen the whole fully executed, the *Spanish* Troops returned into *Spain*, and the Duke of *Savoy* put into quiet Possession of his new Kingdom.

Thus ended the War of *Sicily*, wherein the Fleet of *Great-Britain* bore so illustrious a Part, that the Fate of the Island was wholly governed

verned by its Operations, both Competitors agreeing, that the one could not have conquered, nor the other have been subdued, without it. Never was any Service conducted in all it's Parts with greater Zeal, Activity and Judgement, nor was ever the *British* Flag in so high Reputation and Respect in those distant Parts of *Europe*. The late King, who had named the Admiral for that Expedition, and knew his Abilities, used to say to his Ministers, when they applyed for Instructions to be sent to him for his Guidance on certain important Occasions, that he would send him none, for he knew how to act without any; and indeed all the Measures he took abroad were so exact and just, as to square with the Councils and Plan of Policy at home. The Cause of the Emperor being become the Cause of his Master, he served the Interests of that

O Prince

Prince with a Zeal and Fidelity that stood a Pattern to his own Subjects. He lived in such Harmony with the *Imperial* Vice-roys and Generals, as has been seldom seen among Fellow Subjects united in Command, the Want of which has proved the Ruin of many important Expeditions. He was incapable of performing his Duty in a cold or negligent Manner, and when any Service was committed to his Management, he devoted his whole Time and Application to it; nor could any Fatigue or Indisposition of Body ever divert or interrupt his Attention from any Point that required present Dispatch. To this it might be in great Measure owing, that he was never unfortunate in any Undertaking, nor miscarried in any Service that was entrusted to his Direction. For whoever will trace upwards to the Springs and Causes

Causes of Publick or private Events, shall find (except where the immediate Finger of Providence is visible) that what is usually called Ill-Luck, is generally the Effect of Negligence, or Imprudence. He always proceeded upon solid Principles, and left nothing to Fortune, that could be accomplished by Foresight and Application. His Firmness and plain Dealing were so apparent to the Foreigners who treated with him upon Business, that it contributed much to the Dispatch and Success of his Transactions with them; for they could depend upon what he said, and as they saw he used no Arts or Chicanes himself, and had too discerning a Spirit to suffer them to pass unobserved in others, they often found it their best Policy to leave their Interests in his Hands and Management, being very sure of a most impartial and punctual Performance

mance of whatever he engaged in. His Reputation was so thoroughly established in this particular, that in the frequent Disputes and Altercations which arose between the *Savoyards* and *Germans* in the Course of the War, and between the latter and the *Spaniards* at the Conclusion of it, wherein little Faith or Confidence was given to the Promises or Asseverations of each other, he was the common Umpire between them, always stemming and opposing any extravagant or unjust Demands (which the over-bearing Temper of the *German* General was very apt to suggest, where he had the superior hand) and reconciling, as much as possible, the Violences of War, with the Rules of Honour and Justice. When he departed from *Italy* to attend his late Majesty at *Hanover*, the King among many gracious Expressions, told him, that he had found

found out the Secret of obliging his Enemies as well as Friends, and that the Court of *Spain* had mentioned with great Acknowledgement his fair and friendly Behaviour in the Provision of Transports and other Necessaries for the Embarkation of their Troops, and in protecting them from many Vexations and Oppressions that had been attempted. No wonder, that a Man endowed with such Talents and such a Disposition, left behind him in *Italy*, and other Foreign Parts, the Character of a great Soldier, an able Statesman, and an honest Man.

To give some Description of his Person, he was of a slender Constitution, but well supplyed with Spirits, which did not display themselves so much in Gaiety of Conversation (for he was modest in his Nature) as in Activity in all the Duties and Functions of Life or Business,

O 3 in

in which he was indefatigable, and, by a continued Habit of Industry, had hardened and inured a Body, not naturally strong, to Patience of any Fatigue. He had made no great Proficiency in School-Learning (which the early Age of going to Sea seldom admits of) but his great Diligence, joined with excellent natural Parts, and a just Sense of Honour, made him capable of conducting difficult Negotiations and Commissions with proper Dignity and Address. In his younger days he was both in the Sea and Land Service, being an Officer of Foot in the Garrison of *Tangier*, but preferring the Sea, he was soon distinguished and favoured by that great Seaman Admiral *Russel* (afterwards Earl of *Orford*) who made him his first Captain at the Age of twenty nine, a Post equal in Rank to a Rear-Admiral, and by Degrees he arrived

arrived to be a Commissioner of the Admiralty, and first Admiral of the Fleet, in which Quality he commanded in the War of Sicily. On his repairing to *Hanover*, his late Majesty was pleased to express his Regard to his eminent Services, by making him Treasurer of the Navy, and Rear-Admiral of *Great-Britain*; and soon after a Privy Counsellor, and Peer of *Great-Britain*, with the Title of Viscount *Torrington*; and afterwards Knight of the Bath, upon the Revival of that Order. When his present Majesty came to the Crown, he was pleased to place him at the Head of his naval Affairs, as first Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty, in which high Station he died in the Year 1733, in the 70th Year of his Age.



APPENDIX.

L. S.

George R.

INSTRUCTIONS for our Trusty and
Well beloved Sir George Byng
Knight and Baronet, whom we have
appointed to command our Fleet now
going to the Mediterranean. Given
at our Court at Kensington the 26th
Day of May 1718, in the Fourth
Year of our Reign.

I.  WHEREAS the Crown of Great-Britain by the several Treaties made at Utrecht the 14th day of March 1713 NS, with the Emperor and the late most Christian King, became obliged to see an exact Observation of the Armistice and Neutrality then established in Italy, and was Guarantee for the full Performance of the Stipulations at that Time

Time solemnly agreed to on that head: And whereas by a Treaty made between us and our good Brother the Emperor of *Germany* at *Westminster* the 25th day of *May 1716*, We stand engaged to assist, maintain and defend him in the Possession of all the Kingdoms, Provinces and Rights, which he then actually enjoyed in *Europe*; And whereas the Catholick King hath in an hostile Manner invaded the Territories belonging to the said Emperor, and by Force of Arms hath taken from him the Island and Kingdom of *Sardinia*, and is still making great and warlike Preparations for carrying on his Designs further against the other Dominions belonging to his *Imperial Majesty* in *Italy*, contrary to the Tenor of the aforesaid Treaties: And whereas since this unhappy Rupture, We, as a Friend to both Parties, have not ceased to employ our best Offices

ces in order to accommodate the Differences, and put an End to this War, which, if continued, will endanger the publick Tranquillity of the rest of *Europe*. And whereas We have made particular and earnest Instances with our good Brother the King of *Spain*, that he would consent to a Suspension of Arms, during which the Negotiations for Peace might be more easily and effectually carried on: And whereas his said Catholick Majesty hath appeared to Us not averse to the suspending his further Enterprizes, and thereby facilitating our good Offices towards a happy Accommodation; We therefore for the better fulfilling the several Engagements we lie under by the Treaties aforementioned, and for promoting, in the best and most effectual manner, the measures that may tend to the bringing about an entire Reconciliation and perfect Friendship

Friendship between the said Parties now engaged in War, and thereby putting a Stop to the fatal Consequences, which might otherwise ensue from these Hostilities, have thought it fit and necessary for the purposes aforesaid, and for the Welfare of *Europe* in General, to send a strong Fleet of our Ships of War into the *Mediterranean* under your Command.

II. You are therefore, upon the Receipt of these our Instructions, forthwith to proceed to the *Mediterranean* with our said Fleet, and being arrived in the *Straights*, you shall immediately give Notice to the Catholick King, by our Minister residing at his Court, of your Arrival in those Seas, and that you are instructed in our Name to promote all Measures, that may best contribute to the composing the Differences, that are arisen between him and the Emperor.

III. You

III. You shall from thence without loss of Time, Wind and Weather permitting, proceed to *Portmahon*, and being arrived there, you shall by Expresses give Advice of the same to the Vice-Roy of the Kingdom of *Naples*, and to the Governor of the Dutchy of *Milan*, and let them know the Purport of your Instructions, that you are come with our Fleet into those Parts to make good our Treaties with the Emperor, and to hinder the further Violation of the same by the Arms of the Catholick King; and to that End you will hold a Correspondence with the said Vice-roy and Governor during your Stay in the *Mediterranean*, and let them know, that you are to take Measures, in Concert with them, for preventing any further Breach of the Neutrality of *Italy*, which by our Treaty we are obliged to see preserved; and as you may probably at *Portmahon*

Mahon get the best Intelligence of the Preparations and Proceedings both of the *Imperialists* and the *Spaniards*, you will accordingly take such Stations with our Fleet under your Command, as may be most proper to obstruct any new Hostilities, and to put these our Instructions in Execution.

IV. And as a Suspension of Arms, and a Forbearance of all Acts of Hostility on each side in those Parts, is absolutely necessary for the setting on foot and concluding the proper Negotiations of Peace, you are accordingly to make Instances with both Parties to cease from using any further Acts of Hostility. But in Case the *Spaniards* do still insist with their Ships of War and Forces to attack the Kingdom of *Naples*, or other the Territories of the Emperor in *Italy*, or to land in any Part of *Italy*, which can only be with a design to invade the Emperor's Dominions, against whom only they have

have declared War by invading *Sardinia*; or if they should endeavour to make themselves Masters of the Kingdom of *Sicily*, which must be with a design to invade the Kingdom of *Naples*, in such Case you are, with all your Power, to hinder and obstruct the same. But if it should so happen, that at your Arrival with our Fleet under your Command in the *Mediterranean*, the *Spaniards* should already have landed any Troops in *Italy* in order to invade the Emperor's Territories, you shall endeavour amicably to dissuade them from persevering in such an Attempt, and offer them your Assistance to help them to withdraw their Troops, and put an End to all further Acts of Hostility. But in Case these your friendly Endeavours should prove ineffectual, you shall, by keeping Company with, or intercepting their Ships or Convoy, or, if it be necessary, by openly opposing them,

APPENDIX. 207

them, defend the Emperor's Territories from any further Attempts.

V. And whereas We have thought it for our Service, to send four Battalions of our Forces on Board our Fleet under your Command; upon your Arrival at our Town of *Portmahon*, you are to put the said four Battalions on Shore there, to relieve the Garrisons in our Island of *Minorca*, and you are to take the said Garrisons on Board our Ships of War, in order to employ the same in such manner and according to such Instructions, as you shall receive from Us.

VI. And whereas We have thought fit to recall our Trusty and Well-beloved *Charles Cornwall*, Esq; whom we had appointed our Plenipotentiary for concluding a Peace with the *Moors*, and have empowered you to renew that Negotiation, you are therefore to dispose of the Ships now under the Command of the said Vice-Admiral *Cornwall*,

Cornwall, and employ the whole Squadron, or any part thereof, in the manner you shall judge most proper for promoting the several respective Services, wherein you are employed in the *Mediterranean*.

G. R.

*Mr. Secretary C R A G G's Letter to
the Admiral.*

Cockpit, May 27th O. S. 1718.

S I R,

I Inclose to you his Majesty's Instructions, as well with relation to your Conduct in the *Mediterranean*, as to the Treaty with the *Moors*.

After what passed yesterday between my Lord *Sunderland*, my Lord *Stanhope*, You and Me, when we were together at Lord *Stanhope's* Lodgings, there remains nothing for me but to wish you a good Voyage, and good Success in your Un-

Undertakings. I do it very heartily, and am with great Truth,

SIR,

Your most Obedient

Humble Servant.

J. CRAGGS.

Extract of a Letter from Earl Stanhope
to the Admiral.

BAYONE, September 2d 1718.

Being arrived here last Night in six days from *Madrid*, I do, in pursuance of the Commands I have from his Majesty, take this first Opportunity of acquainting you, that nothing has passed at *Madrid*, which should divert you from pursuing the Instructions you have.

If the News, which I learn at *Bayone*, that the Citadel of *Messina* is taken, be not true, or if, notwithstanding that the *Spaniards* have that Port, their Fleet by contrary Winds,

P or

310 APPENDIX.

or any other Accident, should not have got into the Harbour, and that you have an Opportunity of attacking them, I am perswaded you will not let such an Occasion slip, and I agree perfectly in Opinion with what is recommended to you by Mr. Secretary *Craggs*, that the first Blow you give, should, if possible, be decisive.

The two great Objects which I think we ought to have in View are to destroy their Fleet, if possible, and to preserve such a Footing in *Sicily*, as may enable us to Land an Army there.

Copy

Copy of the King's Letter to the Admiral, written by his own Hand.

Monsieur le Chevalier BYNG.

*Q*uoy que je n'aye pas encore reçeu de vos nouvelles en droiture, j'ay appris la Victoire que la Flotte a remportée sous vos Ordres, & je n'ay pas voulu vous différer le Contentement que mon approbation de vôtre Conduite vous pourroit donner. Je vous en remercie, & je Souhaite que vous en temoigniez ma satisfaction à tous les braves gens qui se sont distinguéz dans cette occasion. Le Secrétaire d'Etat Cragge a Ordre de vous informer plus au long de mes intentions, mais j'ay voulu vous assurer moy même que se suis, Monsieur le Chevalier Byng,

Vôtre bon Amy,

GEORGE R.

A` Hampton-Court ce 23 d'Aout 1718.

P 2

Copy

Copy of the Emperor's Letter to
the Admiral, written by his own
hand.

Monsieur Admiral & Chevalier Byng. I'ay reçeu avec beaucoup de Satisfaction & de Joye par le porteur de celle cy la vôtre du 18me d'Aout. Quand je sceu que vous etiez nommé de sa Majesté le Roy vôtre maître pour commander sa Flotte dans la Mediterranée, je conceus d'abord toutes les bonnes esperances. Le glorieux Succès pourtant les a en quelque maniere Surpassé. Vous avez en cette occasion donné des preuves d'une valeur, conduite, & Zele pour la commune cause très singulier ; la gloire qui vous en resulte est bien grande, mais aussi en rien moins ma reconnoissance, comme vous l'expliquera plus le Comte de Hamilton. Comptez toujours sur la continuation de ma reconnoissance & de mon Affection envers vous, priant Dieu qu'il vous ait en sa Sainte garde. A Vienne le 2me Octobre 1718.

CHARLES.

Copy

Copy of a Letter from the great Master of the Household of the Queen of Denmark, to the Admiral.

Sa Majesté la Reine m'a Ordonnée de Saluer Vôtre Excellence de sa part très gracieusement, et de luy feliciter et marquer en même tems la grande part que Sa Majesté prend à la glorieuse & complete Victoire que la Flotte Angloise ait emportée sous le Commandement de Vôtre Excellence sur celle des Espagnols. Sa Majesté la Reine en est d'autant plus sensible, puisqu' Elle a eüe l'Avantage & la Satisfaction l'année passée de connoître vôtre Excellence plus particulierement. Pour mon particulier, j'en felicite pareillement Vôtre Excellence, luy souhaitant le même bonheur en toutes les occasions & rencontres, quand il S'agit de combattre avec Son Ennemi, ou ceux qui veulent troubler le repos publique. I'ay l'honneur d'être
avec

avec beaucoup de respect & considération,

MONSIEUR,

de Vôtre Excellence

A Copenhague

le très humble & très

ce 26 Sept. 1718.

Obeïsant Serviteur,

MUNICH.

Copy of a Letter from the Emperor
to the Admiral

Monsieur Byng *Amiral & Commandant en Chef de l'Escadre de sa Majesté Britannique dans la mer Méditerranée.* Par les Representations du Comte de Gallas mon Conseiller d'Etat Vice-roy & Capitaine General au Royaume de Naples, & du Comte de Merci Commandant en Chef mes Troupes en Sicile, j'ai été informé du Projet auquel par votre Zèle & activité on avoit travaillé, pour terminer d'autant plus tôt avec Succès la guerre en Sicile, par lequel on concluoit, que le moyen

moyen plus seur & plus prompt, étoit d'envoyer au dit Royaume mes Troupes Imperiales destinées à l'entreprise de Sardaigne. Comme les raisons qui persuadent l'execution du Projet conviennent en même tems à l'Observance du Traité de le Quadruple Alliance, & que non seulement ne rendent point difficile l'attaque de la Sardaigne, mais, au contraire, elles en facilitent l'expédition reglée par le dit Traité, j'ai jugé convenable d'approuver le sus dit Projet. Ainsi pendant que mon cher Frere le Roy de la grande Bretagne, & la Cour de Paris, vont être informez par les Couriers Extraordinaires, que je leurs ai fait dépêcher, des raisons qui ont obligé de suivre les avis portez dans le Projet, je veux que vous Soyez assuré par cette lettre de la Satisfaction que j'ai de l'Amour & Zele que, par vos Conseils, vous avez fait paroître dans cette rencontre, soit pour l'avancement & progrés de la Cause commune, soit pour

pour les Interêts & Attachement à ma Personne Imperiale, & Auguste maison. C'est pour ces raisons, & pour l'opinion juste & avantageuse que j'ai de votre amour envers moi, & de Vôtre Sage Conduite, que dans toutes les Occasions je vous donnerai des Marques de mon Affection, de mon Estime, & du bon Souvenir que j'ai des Services que vous m'avez rendus. Et tant Monsieur Byng Amiral & Commandant en Chef de l'Escadre de Sa Majesté Britannique dans la Mer Méditerranée, Dieu vous ait sous sa Sainte Garde. A Vienne ce deuxieme Août mil-le Sept cent dix neuf.

CHARLES.

De Vilana Perlas.



L I S T of the Spanish Fleet in the Action off of Cape Passaro
 Don Antonio de Castaneta, including two Ships which were am
 the Coast of Sicily.

Ships	Captains	Men	G
St. Philip the Royal.	- - - - -	650	
Prince of Asturias.	- - - - -	550	
The Royal.	- - - - -	400	
St. Lewis.	- - - - -	400	
St. Ferdinand.	- - - - -	400	
St. Carlos.	Prince De Chalay.	400	
Sancta Isabella.	Don Andrez Rezio.	400	
Sancta Rosa.	Don Antonio Gonsalez.	400	
St. John Baptist.	Don Francisco Gerrera.	400	
St. Peter.	Don Antonio Arisaga.	400	
Pearl.	Don Gabriel Alderete.	300	
St. Isidro.	Don Manuel vle Vicentia.	300	
L'Esperanza.	Don Juan Delfino & Borlandine.	300	
Volante.	Don Antonio Escudera.	300	
Hermiona.	Don Rodrigo de Torres.	300	
Porcupine.	A Frenchman.	250	
Surprize.	Don Michel Saday, Knight of Malta.	250	
Juno.	Don Pedro Moyana.	250	
La Galera.	Don Francisco Alverera.	200	
La Castilla.	Don Francisco Leanio, Knight of Malta.	200	
Count de Thoulouse.	Don Joseph Jocoua.	200	
Tyger.	Don ---- Covaigne.	240	
Eagle.	Don Lucas Mafnata.	240	
St. Francis Areres.	---- Jacob, a Scotchman.	100	
Little St. Ferdinand.		150	
Little St. John.	Don Ignatio Valevale.	150	
Arrow.	Don Juan Papajena.	100	
		8830	

There were Seven Gallies, which are of great use in

Passaro in the Year 1718, under the Command of
were amongst those that Captain *Walton* destroy'd on

Men	Guns	
650	74	Admiral <i>Casaneta</i> . Taken.
550	70	Rear-Admiral <i>Chacon</i> . Taken.
400	60	Rear-Admiral <i>Mari</i> . Taken.
400	60	Rear-Admiral <i>Guevara</i> . Escaped.
400	60	Rear-Admiral <i>Cammock</i> . Escaped. Sunk afterwards in <i>Messina Mole</i> .
400	60	Taken.
400	60	Taken.
400	60	Taken.
400	60	Escaped.
400	60	Escaped. Afterwards lost in the Gulph of <i>Tarento</i> .
300	50	Escaped.
300	50	Burnt.
300	46	Taken.
300	46	Burnt.
300	44	Taken.
300	44	Burnt.
300	44	Escaped. Sunk afterwards in <i>Messina Mole</i> .
250	44	Escaped.
250	36	Taken.
250	36	Taken.
200	30	Escaped.
200	30	Escaped.
200	30	Escaped. Taken in <i>Messina Mole</i> .
240	26	Taken.
240	24	Taken.
100	22	Escaped.
150	20	Escaped.
150	20	Escaped. Taken afterwards.
100	18	Escaped.
3830	1284	

use in Battle, especially in calm Weather.

LIST of the British Fleet under the Command of Sir
in the Y

Rate	Ships	Captains
2	Barfleur.	{ 1. George Saunders. 2. Richard Lestock. }
3	Shrewsbury. Dorsetshire. Burford. Essex. Grafton. Lenox. Breda. Orford. Kent. Royal Oak. Captain.	John Balchen. John Furzer. Charles Vanbrugh. Richard Rowzier. Nicholas Haddock. Charles Strickland. Barrow Harris. Edward Falkingham. Thomas Mathews.
4	Canterbury. Dreadnought. Rippon. Superbe. Rupert. Dunkirk. Montague. Rochester. Argyl.	Thomas Kempthorne. Archibald Hamilton. George Walton. William Haddock. Christopher Obrian. Streynsham Master. Arthur Field. Francis Drake. Thomas Beverly. Joseph Winder. Coningsby Norbury.

To be plac'd after Page 310.

of Sir George Byng, in the Action off of *Cape Passaro* in Sicily
the Year 1718.

Men	Guns	
730	90	Admiral <i>Byng</i> .
545	80	Vice-Admiral <i>Cornwall</i> .
535	80	Rear-Admiral <i>Delaval</i> .
440	70	
440	70	
440	70	
440	70	
440	70	
440	70	
440	70	
440	70	
440	70	
365	60	
365	60	
365	60	
365	60	
365	60	
365	60	
365	60	
280	50	
280	50	
8885	1400	